

## Growth and renewal in winter.

Winter is a time when people generally clear out of the Parklands and make way for nature. It's marvelous to see so many plants growing and flowering. When I see the new flush of green in the native grasses and all the wildflowers in bloom, I remind my kids (ad nauseum) that in all likelihood, it was someone from the DPA who planted them.

We've had three very successful planting days so far this year; and the Junior Ranger treasure hunt on August 30 looks close to being booked out. Don't forget next Tuesday's General Meeting either, where Melbourne Water will be talking about the effects of upstream development on flooding in the Parklands. A few weeks ago our local councilor, Trent McCarthy and I took a tour around the Park. He's very supportive of a new environment centre and engaged with local issues.

The shared trail extension is almost finished... in a dead end. Vic Roads hopes to put a tender out for the final part of the project this spring for works to start after Christmas.

We've also had our AGM. We welcome Sofie Anselmi to the committee, and welcome back Carina Watson. It feels great to be

surrounded by such passion and experience. The executive is made up of Secretary Carina, who is also doing a marvelous job of running our Facebook page, Peter Williams, who combines his membership duties with being Treasurer, and immediate past President Mark Creamer who provides wise counsel. Mark expressed genuine leadership in stepping into the Presidency when the situation required it, and we owe him special thanks for his significant efforts.

Sue Course briefly re-joined the committee but ultimately felt unable to guarantee a full year of energetic commitment. This means that if you're interested, we have a casual vacancy to fill.

We also sincerely thank and acknowledge retiring Treasurer Meredith Schapp, Secretary Samantha Roberts and committee members Suzie Rogers and Debra Nette. All four made a fantastic contribution to the running of the DPA. Deb also organised revegetation projects with her NMIT students the fruits of their labour can be seen throughout the park.

See you in the Parklands.

**James Garriock. DPA President**

### Water, floods and the park

**25 August - 7.30-9.00pm Education Centre**

Following a short General Meeting our information evening features a representative from Melbourne Water who will discuss the impacts of floods and how to their causes. Floods have posed a serious problem to the Darebin Parklands and can have disastrous results on the structure of the creek and its banks.

**The Education Centre is located at the end of Separation Street, Alphington**

### Events calendar 2015

25 August.....General Meeting  
30 August.....JR Treasure Hunt  
13 September.....Park Care Day  
9 October.....Community bonfire night  
24 November..... General meeting and  
Information evening

# Pete's page

News from the ranger in charge

## It's all happening - loos/leachate/sinkholes & signs



We have new toilets! Finally the major projects got started in June and are almost complete. As I write this report the builders are on their last day on site, so we are hopeful that the final works will be completed in the next week or so. I think the new toilets are great and I'm so happy that the disabled have finally been catered for. The pile of bluestones Katy and I are removing by hand, as there is lots of rubbish in the pile and we are storing the stones in the fenced leachate compound. At present we are moving 50 a day so I figure in two weeks we should have the pile sorted.

The other major project is the DEC slope or sinkhole just north of the railway bridge. These works have turned the south end of the park into a quagmire of mud. Hence why I was so adamant that summer was when these works should have started, but Council holds the purse strings so winter it is.



The project involves removing 2500m<sup>3</sup> of material and setting up drainage buffers to secure the slope from shifting due to water infiltration.

The other side of the job is placing 1000m<sup>3</sup> of material at the southern end of the park and creating an all-weather track so Melbourne Water works vehicles can access their sewerage infrastructure down near the crossing stones. It will get their vehicles off the shared trail near the duck pond and surrounding wetlands.

Darebin Council has also allocated \$210,000 towards up grading the leachate system which I must say has me very excited as so many technologies in water treatment have been discovered since we built our system 17 years ago. I expect we will be looking to enlarge wetland 1 (on the old tip site) to increase holding capacity and introducing updated treatment methods. I'm working hard to develop plans with Council and hope to start works this November. I won't do anything dramatic without consulting the DPA and public first, but the initial works will be underground upgrades. Darebin Council is also looking to inject \$100,000 in upgrading the Darebin Parklands Separation street entrance which is the main entrance to the parklands.

Banyule Council has allocated \$5000 to help up with signage for better dog control on the Ivanhoe floodplain. While dog walkers are welcome the numbers are growing weekly with new dog walkers coming here who don't quite get the rules re leashed and unleashed areas

So Katy and I are under the hammer but thriving with the prospect of doing all these works this year.

Thanks to you, the DPA for all you support in our Park care days. The plantings are brilliant and will transform the two sites in snake grass. Just look at Mt Puffalo and how it's responding to last year's park care day plantings. Thank you to our wonderful DPA Thursday crew who make our job so much easier. Remember that the Junior Ranger campout and bonfire night are coming up on October 9. Ironically my stashed wood supply for the bonfire is hidden behind the dumped soil at the south of the park so getting to it might be a challenge, but we'll figure that out in time. The bonny will be where we had it last year on the floodplain near the Clifton Bridge.

I must get back to moving that pile of bluestone.

**Peter Wiltshire [Head Ranger]**



## PARK CARE DAYS

Since our last newsletter in May, Park Care Days on 17 May, 21 June and the 19 July have transformed the area between Snake Grass and the creek. Over 3000 indigenous shrubs and grasses have been planted. Thanks to the efforts of DPA members and volunteers and under the expert supervision of rangers Pete and Katy the area has been totally revegetated and in the future will provide a wonderful display of wildflowers and grasses.



Park Care day 21 June –the boys checking out the latest Northcote real estate!!



Park Care day 19 July

### Park Care Day 16 August

On 16 August over 30 participants planted wildflowers and grasses on Mt Puffalo –it looks great. The splashes of purple created by the *Whalenbergia* are spectacular.

## VOLUNTEER WITH THE DPA

We are seeking volunteers to help with weeding and planting in the parklands. A weekly group works under the guidance of Katy Marriott, Ranger, who teaches weed and plant identification. Work commences in autumn and usually lasts 2-3 hours on a particular day usually Thursday morning from 9-11am

**Please contact: Katy Marriott: [katy@dcmc.org.au](mailto:katy@dcmc.org.au)**

### Plants used in Park Care Days

Here is a list of wildflowers, shrubs and grasses used in Park Care days.

*Calocephalus citreus* Lemon Beauty Head  
*Chrysocephalum apiculatum* Common Everlasting Daisy  
*Chrysocephalum semipapposum* Clustered Everlasting  
*Dichondra repens* Kidney Plant  
*Einadia nutans* ssp. *Nutans* Nodding Saltbush  
*Einadia trionos* ssp. *Trionos* Lax/Fishweed Goosefoot  
*Kennedia prostrata* Running Postman  
*Whalenbergia gracilis* Australian Bluebell  
*Whalenbergia stricta* ssp. *falcata*  
*Microlaena stipoides* Weeping Grass  
*Poa labillardieri* Common Tussock Grass  
*Lomandra longifolia* Spiny Headed Mat Rush



*Calocephalus citreus*



*Whalenbergia stricta*



*Microlaena stipoides*



*Lomandra longifolia*

## FROM THE ARCHIVES



B&W photograph taken on the banks of Darebin Creek in 1914 and titled 'Three people in a tree'!!!!!!!

<http://victoriancollections.net.au/organisations/darebin-parklands-association>

# Up and down the creek



**News from the Darebin Creek Management Committee (DCMC) Coordination Division.**

## Education Program

Darebin Creek Education Program is offering a new activity called Nest box Habitats, to schools who can visit the Parklands. Students will get a close-up view of the Darebin Parklands nest boxes program. They will learn about the need for nest boxes, due to a lack of natural tree hollows along the creek. We will have a look in a couple of nest boxes with a nest box camera and be able to see live and recorded footage of nesting birds and possums. We have given this activity a trial with St Bernadette's Primary and are set to do a number of sessions with Wales Street Primary year 5/6s in the coming weeks.

## Interactive Board

Thanks to a grant from City of Darebin, we are planning the production of a series of magnetic posters for an interactive board which will be able to present several different environmental themes. By using magnetic covers, we will be able to easily switch between themes, which we are currently hoping to include: Local Frogs, Birds and Healthy Creeks. We will be able to use the board for our education program, at Friends, DPA and DCMC events and at festivals. The interactive board will have push buttons which can play calls of featured animals and we're hoping to have it ready by early 2016.

## Soggy Friends Planting

On what must have been one of the wettest July days in a while, Friends of Darebin Creek got together with Friends groups from across Banyule to plant out hundreds of native plants in the Darebin Grasslands in West Heidelberg. Organized by the indefatigable Sam from the Banyule Bush crew, 24 volunteers planted a total of 1550 lilies and herbs.

The site had previously been burnt in preparation for the planting. Luckily there was a marquee for a little bit of cover from the deluge, and there was a sausage sizzle for the soaked, hungry punters.



A great turnout on a cold winter's day gets the job done.

## Upcoming Activities

Friends Meeting. On Wed 19 August, Isaac Gravalin an Intern with BirdLife Australia will be giving a presentation on the Powerful Owl Project. He is hoping to be joined by Nick Bradsworth, who will be starting a research project with Deakin University on the Powerful Owls of Melbourne later in the year. Isaac is looking to get the word out on a possible Melbourne expansion of the project.



Check Friends website for further details  
<http://friendsofdarebincreek.org.au/events-darebin-creek/>

**Peter Grenfell**

**DCMC Project Officer**  
[pgrenfell@dcmc.org.au](mailto:pgrenfell@dcmc.org.au)







## JR NEWS ROUNDUP

### Junior Rangers Treasure Hunt

**Sunday August 30 2-4pm**

Come along for an exciting walk around the Parklands and discover hidden treasure!

Enter for either the regular hunt (suitable for children aged 3 - 6 years and families with strollers)

Or

The longer hunt (for children aged 7 - 15 years).

**Limited places, so booking is essential.** Please book by going to the contact us page on our website and email your details.

**NB. This is a Junior Ranger members' event. Families who are non-members should join the DPA before the day.**



Remember that the Junior Ranger campout and bonfire night are coming up on October 9.

Details of future Junior Ranger events will be posted on our website. [www.dpa.org.au](http://www.dpa.org.au)



## DUCKS R US

Editor's note: The following poem has been penned by Rudolf Anders, A long time member of the DPA.

### Love

Know what love is?  
Lots of love in my dictionary  
Eighteen definitions

Here's a confusion of loves  
In one story

A lovely day in the park  
Kind people feed bread to ducks

On rainy days or weeks  
Ducks are not fed  
Love of a comfy home  
Exceeds love of ducks

People love to be loved by ducks  
A bag of stale bread buys duck love  
They swim, waddle or fly  
To be close to you  
And your gifts

A notice on park the gate  
**BREAD KILLS DUCKS**  
If you love ducks  
Don't feed them

The ranger  
Covered in mud  
Rescuing sick ducks  
Ducks hate him  
He loves them

What is love?  
Thoughtful or impulsive  
Tough or weak  
Intelligent or sentimental

Love is work