

Wattle Day is coming up on 1 September and the park is a riot of golden flowers. We would love to see your photos of this gorgeous new growth – share them by tagging #darebinparklands on Instagram.

Speaking of growth, we have been delighted to see record numbers of people joining us for Park Care Days, including many new faces. Our efforts in Zero Land have been boosted by a very large cheque from participants in the Jemena Power Changers trial. Our final Park Care Day for 2018 is a joint event with Friends of Darebin Creek at Napier Waller Reserve on Sunday 26 August – please note that we are meeting earlier than usual, 10am-12pm.

At our next General Meeting on 28 August, Ranger Pete will be talking about myna eradication – with some terrific videos of how these clever birds can be outsmarted. Read on for Pete's page, and hear about the arrival of the sugar gliders!

Look out for other upcoming events, including the Community Bonfire on 21 September and activities for Junior Rangers, as well as Banyule Council-funded activities to help new Ivanhoe residents discover the Parklands – assisted by a new set of maps, postcards and signs.

In DPA Committee news, our recent AGM saw some changes to our Executive. Our new Vice President is Jenny van Woerkom, and Alice Bennet is keeping us on track as our new Secretary.

Peter Williams continues in his valued role as Treasurer and Membership Officer, and I have stepped into the large shoes vacated by James Garriock, who remains on the Committee.

## The friendly faces of your Executive, DPA



Left to right: Sofie Anselmi, Jenny van Woerkom, Peter Williams and Alice Bennett

Sue Course and Carina Watson departed the Committee at the AGM, but they have not gone far. We thank and acknowledge the significant contribution made by Sue, James and Carina over the last few years, and particularly highlight their advocacy efforts which have raised the profile and importance of the Parklands with local government as well as a host of other government bodies. See you in the park,

**Sofie Anselmi. President**

## General Meeting

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

Don't miss this opportunity to hear Peter Wiltshire provide a comprehensive review of what's happening in the park. In particular he will outline the progress of the nest box program and the Indian Minor eradication

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

## Events calendar 2018

26 August.....Park Care Day

28 August.....General Meeting/Info Night

21 September.... Community Bonfire Night

20 November.... Final Meeting and BBQ

# News from the ranger in charge

## Pete's page

Hello Members

Most of you probably know that we have Sugar Gliders at the Parklands.



As I personally don't have any social media activity and I seem to be repeating news and events to the modern world people who seem to know about things within hours.

But I think this news is worthy of repeat as not having Sugar Gliders at Darebin Parklands has given my fellow ranger colleagues great pleasure by stirring me up about the tip I manage! Darebin Parklands might lack of tree hollows, but our 149 nest boxes are matching those tree hollow snobs in the meantime. Ha!



I was with Michael Mann (luckily with his new camera lens) checking nestboxes in the dog off leash area and while inspecting nestbox 24R we disturbed a Sugar Glider from inside and it came out. Michael managed to get some photos before Rainbow Lorikeets started to squabble with it, and to our amazement it then scrambled to the top of the tree and launched into a full glide above our heads. Indeed, a rare thing to see during daylight hours.

On the bird front we are having groups of Gang Gangs at the parklands daily feeding on the Sugar Gums in the park and they're a treat as they squeak above. Some say they sound like an old squeaky door. If you don't see them at the Parklands they can be found at Napier Waller reserve fairly easily.

You may see them if you come along to our next Park care Day on the 26th August

If you haven't explored this area you can also check out the new bridges completed as part of the Yarra Trail. You can ride your bikes from the park if you haven't already done so





# Pete's page

## continued

Katy and I have started planting Black Mulberries along Mulberry Avenue as the original trees are on their last legs sadly. The 2008 drought really affected the upper Mulberries for which they have never really recovered even though we were feeding each tree a 1000 litres of water every week. As they were weakened by the drought, a fungal disease took hold and that disease has nearly wiped them out as a result.

The lower Mulberries are in better shape as the soil on the floodplain retains moisture much longer. DCMC will be planting more Black Mulberries over the next few years to restore the Mulberry Avenue to its former glory.



This year's parkcare days have been sensational with over 150 people participating over the three days we've had so far. Our next parkcare day is really a Waller weekend day on the 26th August at Napier Waller with the Friends of Darebin Creek.

Please note that Waller weekends start at 10am and finish at 12pm unlike normal park care days in the afternoons. We will be planting.



Park Care Day 'Zeroland' May 27<sup>th</sup>

We are gearing up for the junior ranger spotlighting tonight (17/8) and of course the bonfire night on the 21st September. I will start building the bonny two weeks before the event as I'm always worried some joker will light it prematurely if I build it too soon.

I'm look forward to sharing with you our research work that Michael Mann and I have done regarding Indian Mynas and how our Penthouse for Parrots programme is going at the next information night. So, until then. From me and those pesky Sugar Gliders



**Peter Wiltshire**  
**Head Ranger**

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**See Peter Grenfell's report P6 on Sugar Glider activity along the Darebin Creek corridor. He notes:**

'Banyule Bushcrews have been installing sugar glider nestboxes and monitoring their populations as they move downstream along the creek corridor. Their work has complemented the nestboxes installed and maintained along the creek by DCMC Coordination division' and those in the park.....

He reminds us that habitat has no boundaries and the sugar glider sitings are a great example of the coordination and copoeration of different groups involved with management of the creek.



## MELB.POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS LEND A HAND

On August 16th the Thursday group volunteers combined with 15 students from the Certificate IV course in Horticulture at Melbourne Polytechnic to work together. Deb Nette, former committee member with the DPA and lecturer at the college, and Katy provided guidance and advice to the students,

A substantial number of grasses and shrubs were planted in Snakegrass in record time. After a cuppa the group then completed some weeding in Zeroland.

The volunteers really appreciated the time and effort put in by the students and were impressed with their knowledge of indigenous plants. It was great to be able to achieve so much and we hope to work with them again.



### WHAT BIRD IS THAT??

On 9 July the Thursday crew went bird watching with Ranger Katy and Jill as our guides. We met at Clifton Bridge and were able to record a variety of species in the area. See Katy's results.

We then walked to Ivanhoe Wetland- Pobblebonk along the Dog Path and back to Clifton Bridge. We thoroughly recommend this route as a great way to see heaps of birdlife. In November 2017 we went on a similar walk and saw 27 indigenous species. This year 23 species were recorded.



Australian White Ibis



Tawney Frogmouth

### Bird Survey Darebin Parklands. 9-11am. 7/7/18

Bird	Number	Notes
Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	30	
Pied Currawong	2	
Eurasian Coot	1	
Silver Gull	1	
Rainbow Lorikeets	6	
Rufous Whistler	1	? Female
Kookaburra	3	
Brown Thornbill	4	
Magpie-lark	5	
Noisy Miner	8	
Magpie	2	
Little Grebe	3	
Chestnut Teal	2	
Pacific Black Duck	2	
Grey Butcherbird	1	Heard only
Little Raven	2	(May be Australian Raven?)
Red Wattlebird	1	
Spotted Pardalote	1	Heard only
Eastern Rosella	3	
Tawny Frogmouth	2	
Crimson Rosella	1	
Spotted Turtle-dove	2	
Indian Myna	5	
Blackbird	1	

Total: 23 Indigenous species



## PARK CARE DAYS

As Pete mentioned in his report we had some very successful planting days this winter. Many thanks to all those who attended.

### Planting at Zeroland. May 27th

Over 1000 grasses, lilies and shrubs were planted and approx. 70 people attended.

Many thanks to all those who came and made the day such a great success.

A special presentation by Jemena to the DPA was a highlight of the day

Thanks to those who participated in the Power Changers trial over summer, which resulted in Jemena presenting a healthy cheque to the DPA.



Past President, James Garriock and current President, Soshi Anselmi accept the donation from Andrew Davis, General Manager – Electricity Markets. Jemena

### Planting at Ivanhoe Wetland. June 24th

The area planted was downstream of the crossing stones. Another great turnout -600 Shrubs, ground covers and grasses planted along the creek [riparian zone] to stabilize banks.

### Planting at Zeroland. July 22nd

Back to Zeroland to complete most of the planting. Saltbush, daisies and kangaroo grass were used.

**40 volunteers planted over 800 species.**



*Chrysocephalum sp.*  
Clustered everlasting



*Themedia Triandra*  
Kangaroo grass

## Photos from Planting day in Zeroland 22/7



Photos by Alice Bennett

## LAST PARK CARE DAY 2018

**August 26th (10am-12pm)** - Park Care Day – Planting at Napier Waller Reserve with friends of Darebin Creek (new section of shared trail south of Sparkes Reserve/Heidelberg Rd). **Note start time.**

## COMMUNITY BONFIRE

**Friday September 21**

**Where:** Bottom of bluestone steps at lower area of dog-off-lead area.

**When:** Dusk

All welcome, please keep dogs on lead for the event. Children must be supervised at all times.



# Up and down the creek



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

## **Darebin Creek Education Program**

We recently worked with students and teachers of four Year 3/4 classes from Al Siraat College, Epping.



This school backs onto the Findon Creek, where the City of Whittlesea have recently built a shared path and undertaken bushland maintenance. In partnership with City of Whittlesea, DCMC ran a number of stormwater education sessions and aided in planting sessions and two creek clean ups. We were able to donate a clean-up kit to the school for ongoing student clean ups. Teacher feedback was very positive. They said the students learned how to look after the environment, and learned about the extent of the impact of human activities on the environment.

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## **Banyule Bushcrew helping with Sugar Gliders**



We are all very excited about sugar gliders making it to the Parklands. One of the reasons they have made it here has been the efforts of the Banyule Bushcrew, in particular Sam and Tom. They have been installing sugar glider nestboxes and monitoring their populations as they move downstream along the creek corridor. Their work has complemented the nestboxes installed and maintained along the creek by DCMC Coordination division and within the Parklands by Pete, Michael and Katy. A great result due to joint efforts. Pictured is a family of sugar gliders in a nestbox, taken by Tom Crawshaw.

## **Friends Working Group**

The Friends of Darebin Creek have started a Reach-based working group to work through aspects of the Darebin Creek Management Plan (DCMP). Led by new member John Burke, and starting small, the group is hoping to attract some locals from the area called Reach 4 in the DCMP. This area extends from the Ring Road in Bundoora to Plenty Road in Reservoir. Issues discussed thus far have included the planned bridge across the creek at Rathcoun Road in Reservoir, the importance of maintenance tracks / informal walking trails on the opposite bank of the creek from the shared trail, and maintaining KP Hardiman Reserve in its current state. The upcoming Friends meeting will have a Strategic Planner from City of Darebin to discuss Northland Urban Renewal Project (NURP) and the opportunities it presents for the creek environs.

**Peter Grenfell - Education Officer**  
**Darebin Creek Management Committee**  
[www.dcmc.org.au](http://www.dcmc.org.au)



## JR NEWS ROUNDUP.

### Nestboxes in the Park-12 July

Junior Rangers had an information session with Ranger Peter & Ranger Therese in the Animal Classroom about all the animals that live in the Parklands.

They viewed a couple of DCMC Youtube recordings of animals in Nesting Boxes and then went out with Rangers to view the animal occupants in real life! JRs returned to the Gleeson classroom where they had to complete a cut & paste quiz about Native Animals, before being rewarded with their own Native Animal jigsaw which was generously donated by Bunning Northland – Big Thank You. JR then decorated the animals by attaching eyes and colouring them in.



A relaxed possum in a 'delux' nestbox  
DPA facebook. 29/11/17

### JR Spotlighting with Peter Wiltshire 17 August

Approximately 20 families with kids in tow dispersed into the park at dusk on Friday 17th for the Junior Ranger Spotlighting Walk.



Pete introduces the Spotlight walk.

Highlights were a Tawny Frog-mouth, dozens of Ringtail Possums, a Brush-Tailed Possum, a family of sleeping Kookaburras, and even some Short-Finned Eels in the creek. We were treated to the calls of some Ewing's Tree Frogs at Ivanhoe Wetland. Ranger Pete and Katy and Parent Raoul were able to locate critters with spotlights while kids and adults picked their way through the park with torches.



A ringtail possum caught in the spotlight

### JR Events for 2018

Keep an eye out on our website [www.dpa.org.au](http://www.dpa.org.au) for upcoming JR events in 2018 including:

- A Celebration of Halloween.
- A Sports Day
- Junior Ranger Campout

**Don't forget to come along to the Community Bonfire Night on 21 September and check out our website for details of activities for Halloween on 31 October**

Families (or individuals) can join the DPA through our website at [www.dpa.org.au](http://www.dpa.org.au)

Fill in a membership form and pay online, or post a cheque to DPA, PO Box 3, Ivanhoe 3079.

**Thanks Maree for your efforts in organizing yet more great Junior Ranger activities and for providing the photos included in this article.**