

President's Report

The DPA Annual General Meeting is fast approaching – and we are delighted to welcome Sophia Burgess and her colleagues to talk about the rehabilitation of the wetlands on the Alphington property of Kate Herd.

Plus, if you would like to get more involved in the DPA – consider nominating for the Committee at the AGM.

The DPA Committee is a friendly group of people who meet every couple of months to plan DPA activities and to coordinate park care with the DCMC Rangers. Please get in touch with us if you would like to know more.

This year, we will be looking for a new Secretary. This is a valued role, as this person coordinates our meetings by preparing agendas and minutes, plus keeps an eye on our emails. If you're organised and have a spare hour or two per week, we would love to hear from you.

To vote at the AGM, you'll need to be a current DPA member. If you haven't yet re-joined for 2019, please visit our website today.

In other news, thank you for your strong interest in our first talk for this year back in March. Jesse Barrett from Melbourne Water spoke on the recent impacts of fire on the Stony Creek and complex joint action with EPA and other agencies.

After the talk, we were approached by Friends of Merri Creek and invited to join a coalition of Friends groups and other community-based organisations to advocate for better management of industrial waste. We are considering the invitation, and if we go ahead, we will welcome member input – stay tuned!

Lastly, my Parklands highlight for 2019 so far has been walking the Spiritual Healing Trail with Uncle Trevor Gallagher. The calm of this cleansing smoke of this ceremony stayed with me for the whole day!



Thank you for your continued support and look forward to seeing you at the DPA AGM on 28 May.

Sofie Anselmi
DPA President



PARK CARE DAYS

(Please check email updates/notice boards prior to events in case of any location changes!):

May 26th (1pm-3pm) – Park Care Day – Planting native grasses and lilies at Zeroland (near car] park/bush kinder)

June 23rd (1pm-3pm) – Park Care Day – Planting shrubs and ground covers at the: Rock Circle-on the Creekside of Snake Grass along the path next to the creek

July 21st (1pm-3pm) – Park Care Day – Planting grasses wildflowers and shrubs on Mt Puffalo.

August 18th (1pm-3pm) – Park Care Day – Planting native grasses and lilies at Zeroland (near car park/bush kinder)

DPA AGM Notice

The DPA will hold its Annual General Meeting at 7.30pm on Tuesday 28 May at the Darebin Parklands Education Centre.

The meeting includes a talk from local gardener Sophia Burgess and her colleagues.

Membership Renewal

Renew your membership or join the DPA at www.dpa.org.au.

Pay online or post a cheque to DPA, PO Box 3, Ivanhoe 3079.

Pete's page

News from the ranger in charge

Hello Members,

This is by far the driest the park has been in my many years here. We don't even have enough aquifer water to run the leachate system, so the system is turned off for the first time since it was built in 1997. At least we'll save on power use.

To give you an idea of how dry it has been, below I have the Melbourne average monthly rainfall for the first four months compared to this year at the Parklands

Month	January	February	March	April
Melb Average	46.8	48	50.1	57.3
2019 Parklands	14	22	13.2	8.2

So, as you can see things are not the best here at the Parklands.

I have always described the Parklands when it's looking its best a wearing a nice tuxedo, but at the moment it's wearing a pair of stubbies and singlet with thongs.

The following photos show the contrast today with a normal year



This is what the dog off lead area looks like now



This is what the dog off lead area usually looks like

Sink hole works



Moving on to other news Darebin Council has tackled the sinkhole using contractors with the works required to fix the sinkhole now complete. All our plantings were dug up and destroyed on the slope so we'll have to replant the site in the next year or so.

The sinkhole was created by the collapse of the Wingrove Street storm water drain and we are hoping that this doesn't happen again as this is the third similar issue on that slope in 15 years.

See you later Katy, hello Kate!

As you might know Katy has moved to Melbourne Water for a six-month secondment to broaden her skills and knowledge of our industry. It is a great opportunity for her and while I miss her heaps at the Parklands, I'm fully behind Katy and her choices.

I'm a simple man so to keep things simple I have replaced Katy with a Kate.

So, let me introduce Kate Grinter to you all. Kate Grinter is a Shepparton native living in Ivanhoe with 11 years' experience as a Park Ranger both in the private and government positions.

Pete's page [continued]

Kate has a Masters in Environmental Planning from RMIT and has also worked as the Bio-diversity officer at Banyule City Council for 12 months then more recently as a Ranger along the Yarra River with Banyule.

So once again another Ranger smarter than me. joins our ranks and I hope you all have a chance to meet Kate at our Parkcare days if not sooner

Speaking of Parkcare days our next one is coming up on the 26 May at Zeroland, so we are hoping to get a heap of help planting out the site and continuation of extending our little grassland project.

I will be an apology to the next DPA info night on the 28th as it the wife's birthday and I promised to take her out somewhere nice before I realized the info night was on, and as I had to cancel our recently planned holidays, I don't want to test the waters.

Insect of the month



Let me introduce you to the Katydid, which can be found if you look very carefully in Eucalypts and other native trees. This Katydid was in a Yellow Box tree near our offices. Katydids are in the Grasshopper and Cricket family and get their name from the sound they make which sounds like "Katydid Katydi." Their ears are in the knees of their front legs and Katydids eat other insects leaves so they are a great insect to observe.

For more information, check out:
<https://www.backyardbuddies.org.au/backyard-buddies/katydids>

See you in the park,

.Peter Wiltshire, Head Ranger

VOLUNTEER WITH THE DPA

We are seeking volunteers in 2019 to help with weeding and planting in the Parklands. Kate Grinter supports this weekly group, supplying plants and tools and teaching weed and plant identification.

Work usually lasts 2-3 hours usually on Thursday morning from 9-11 am. A gourmet cup of morning tea is always provided.

Past projects have included planting wildflowers and grasses on Mt Puffalo, clearing weeds from the Snake Grass Area as well as planting and weeding at other sites along the creek bank. The emphasis is providing planting that stabilizes the creek banks and prevents erosion during floods.

So far this year, it's been a little dry to do too much planting or weeding, so our group has been busy learning about the water treatment and undertaking a bird identification walk (see the next page) .

A recent highlight was a walk on the Parklands Spiritual Healing Trail with Aboriginal Cultural Educator Uncle Trevor Gallagher to walk the Parklands Spiritual Healing Trail. Thanks to Uncle Trev for helping us feel more connected to this place - and thanks to Ranger Pete for the great photos.



All are welcome to join us – just for the day or more regularly. Please contact Kate Grinter:
kate@dcmc.org.au.

WHAT BIRD IS THAT???

On Thursday 21 March Katy took the volunteers and others for an informative Bird ID walk., What a great way to say goodbye. In the space of an hour and a half this is what they saw.

Thanks, Katy, for making our Thursday mornings so interesting and fun

Bird	Number
Australasian/Little Grebe	3
Brown Thorn-bill	2
Chestnut Teal	9
Crested Pidgeon	3
Crimson Rosella	0
Dusky Moorhen	11
Eastern Rosella	5
Eurasian Coot	5
Grey Butcherbird	2 [Heard only]
Grey Fantail	1+
Indian Myna (Introduced)	3
Laughing Kookaburra	1 [Heard only]
Little Raven	2
Magpie	6
Magpie-lark	6
Noisy Miner	10
Pacific Black Duck	7
Pied Currawong	1 [Heard only]
Rainbow Lorikeets	12+
Red-romped Parrot	5
Red Wattlebird	7
Spotted Predilute	1 [Heard only]
Spotted Turtle-dove	4 [Introduced]
Superb Fairy-wren	3 [Heard and sighted]
Tawny Frogmouth	2
Welcome Swallow	3



Tawny Frogmouth

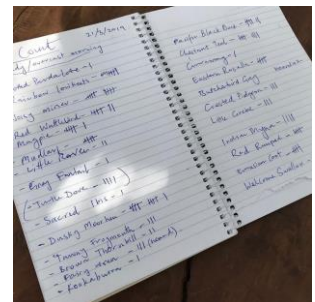


'What is that?'

A really good turnout from the Thurs crew, members and some visitors. Jill and Katy provided the expertise. Not ideal bird watching conditions but a great final result



Royal Ibis



The walk began at Clifton Bridge then- Ivanhoe Wetland followed by Pobblebonk after that - Duck Ponds and Bluestone Steps, then finished back at the Clifton Bridge.

NB A similar walk on the 5th July 2018 recorded 23 indigenous species. Our park is haven for a variety of birds.



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Up and down the creek

News from the DCMC Coordination Division

Creek Nestbox Program

Candice Sexton, a long-time casual education worker for DCMC, has been helping revamp our nestbox program along the creek. We're looking at relocating our fairly randomly located nestboxes into a small number of clumps. It is hoped this will promote better habitat, streamline the monitoring / maintenance process, and will align with similar clumps of boxes being monitored on the Banyule side by the Banyule Bushcrew.

Gums Along the Creek 2

We'll soon be taking delivery of 1,000 trees to be planted along the Darebin and Hendersons Creeks between McKimmies Road, Thomastown to McDonalds Road, Epping. Hoping for some good rains which will assist greatly in planting success

Darebin Creek Education Program

Among the schools the Darebin Creek Education has worked with, has been the wonderful Maree Sier-Trentin (DPA volunteer) and St Bernadette's Primary students doing Water Quality Testing and our first ever Litter Audits. We have done many creek clean-ups in the past but we are now looking to run them as litter audits and upload the data on to the Litter Stopper app, which also can go to the national AMDI litter database.

Around 100 Year 3 students from St Christopher's in Airport West visited the Parklands. They were looking at the role of the community in looking after the environment, and we ran Catchment Story and Darebin Parklands history guided walks. I was so impressed by their knowledge of the Parklands, including being able to name Sue Course as one of its founders, that I presented the organising teacher with a Darebin Parklands history book.



Wood Street Development

Therese Grinter has been appearing at VCAT to contest what we consider an over development along the creek adjacent to Wood St, Preston. Its been a huge effort from Therese and other DCMC staff that will hopefully have a satisfactory conclusion for the creek and the community. For up do date information on events on the Darebin Creek contact:

<http://friendsofdarebin creek.org.au/events-darebin-creek/>

Peter Grenfell
DCMC Education Officer

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

Sunday 3 March, 9.30am-12.00pm

We had a small turnout at the March 3rd 'Clean Up Australia Day' Given the oppressive weather [40 degrees] it was amazing anyone turned up at all???? Thanks to Pete and Katy. Clean Up Australia Day is an annual event that DPA and DCMC participates in, keep your eye out next March if you would like to get involved

'Clean up Australia Day' circa 1975



For more great photos go to the DPA section of the Victorian Collections website:

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

