

Brexit, Trumpalism and the power of the Parklands. Four candidates from Darebin's Rucker ward offered explicit support for our proposal to look into innovative ways of managing user conflicts in the Parklands, and three of them were the successful three candidates from a field of 17. Thank you to everyone who took the Parklands into account when they voted, and congratulations to Susan Rennie, Trent McCarthy and Kim le Cerf. In Banyule, Peter Castaldo was elected in Griffin. Craig Langdon and Tom Melican were also elected and are known for their sympathy for the Parklands. We have reproduced what the successful candidates told us later in the newsletter. on page 7.

It is Poorneet season in the Parklands. Poorneet should be over by now but the rains just seem to keep on coming this year. It's for tadpoles and Currawongs, of which plenty were sighted in the Junior Ranger camp out last weekend. 12 adults and sixteen kids spent a night in the wilds of Ivanhoe and made some lasting memories. Thanks Katy, Ian, Peter, Tracey and Carina for your help in making it happen.

At the signing of the final contract for the bike trail we persuaded VicRoads' engineer on the Chandler Highway project to inspect the site by bicycle during peak hour:)

We got the message home about how important it is to provide easy access for people who don't want to be in their cars.



Once the contract for the final section of the trail was awarded we used the opportunity to get into the ear of the Minister for Roads - photo from the launch day. We look forward to celebrating the official opening

Maree outdid herself with a spontaneous Halloween event for 30 junior rangers. The Thursday group keeps on keeping on, and how satisfying it must be to plant in the Parklands this year, where almost everything has survived and thrived. Finally, Sue, Pete, Louise and I paid a visit to the DPA archives at the State Library where they were overcome by a tsunami of nostalgia, and I read about the existential crisis of the mid 80s when many members thought that the battle was done and there was nothing left for the DPA to do

See you at the BBQ on the 22/11  
**James Garriock. DPA President**

**22 November [6.00pm] Education Centre**

## End of year BBQ/Tour

Members are invited to the final DPA meeting, BBQ and park tour on 25/11 - 6.00pm Ranger Pete will conduct a tour focusing on water issues and how to transform areas of the park from grass into bushland.

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

## Events calendar 2016-17

22 Nov.....BBQ and Tour with Peter Wiltshire

### 2017

February.....General Meeting and Info. Night.

Date to be confirmed.

5 March ..... Clean up Australia Day

# Pete's page

News from the ranger in charge

## 2016 a year of significant upgrades.

As we head towards the end of the year it's time to look back at our achievements this year and plans for 2017

### Public Toilets

Old 1980 DPA bluestone public toilets were demolished and replaced by a new facility funded by Darebin Council. The original bluestone has been kept for use for paths and other projects at the Parklands in the future.

### Leachate system works.

- We upsized over 300 metres of piping from 50mm to 100mm to allow greater movement and treatment of leachate.
- We constructed larger and deeper pits to help us manage sludge and increase to pumps sizes to a uniform 3.7kW for all ponds, as before the pumps were a mishmash of different sizes making hard to balance the system.
- We brought the Duck Pond into the leachate movement equation by providing a power supply the constructing a 3-metre-deep pit fitting a submersible pump. This allows up to pump up to the wetland 1 (on the tip site) enabling all ponds now to be linked.
- We built a viewing deck to cover the Duck Pond pit and piping.
- We upgraded the spillway to improve aeration via better rock placement and improved the ascetics of the site as well.
- We upgraded the system's electrical supply and placed all of the pumps at the network of wetlands on time clocks to reduce power consumption and improve efficiency.

### The Hidden Valley

Work for the dole crews rebuilt the path and retaining walls then constructed bluestone steps leading to the palm tree site. They also constructed bluestone steps to the crossing stones.

### DPA Parkcare Days

Rockbeare Grove Frontage reclaimed for a lawn site to an extension for the bushland escarpment.

- Melbourne Water Floodplain western creek bank from crossing stones to ford revegetated with native grasses and riparian species.

***Approximately 12,000 indigenous plants planted by DPA members in 2016***

### DCMC

- DCMC successfully becomes a charity organisation in its path to receiving DGR status.
- DCMC receives grants to update facilities including installing a new kitchen and air conditioners and flooring for Gleeson Building.
- Co-ordination Building gets new roof.
- DCMC engages VECCI to evaluate DCMC staff and organisation.

### Next year and beyond.

- We have already started our 25% reduction of mown areas in the park. It is our goal to increase the bushland zones whilst maintaining mown areas on the Northcote floodplain and around the picnic area.
- We will start revegetation of these new areas after we have reduced weeds etc.
- With an estimated 30,000 extra people expected to live within 2kms of the parklands we have been encouraged by our funding councils to start preparing and planning the park for much higher use.
- Prepare parklands for the more entries from the southern shared trail which is due to be completed in the next 15 months.
- Revegetation of Napier Waller with indigenous ground covers and understory species.



Napier st Reserve



New spillway



## Art in the Park.

### 'Map of Contemplation' Ann Farago

Ann Farago was our Artist in Residence at the Darebin Parklands in 2015. In 2016 she has created an inspirational installation called 'Map of Contemplation'.

'Map of Contemplation' was part of Pinpoint Art in Public Places supported by Banyule City Council.

She is currently undergoing a Master of Arts by Research at Federation University, Ballarat with the proposed title 'The making and placing of a personal view; questions of place'.

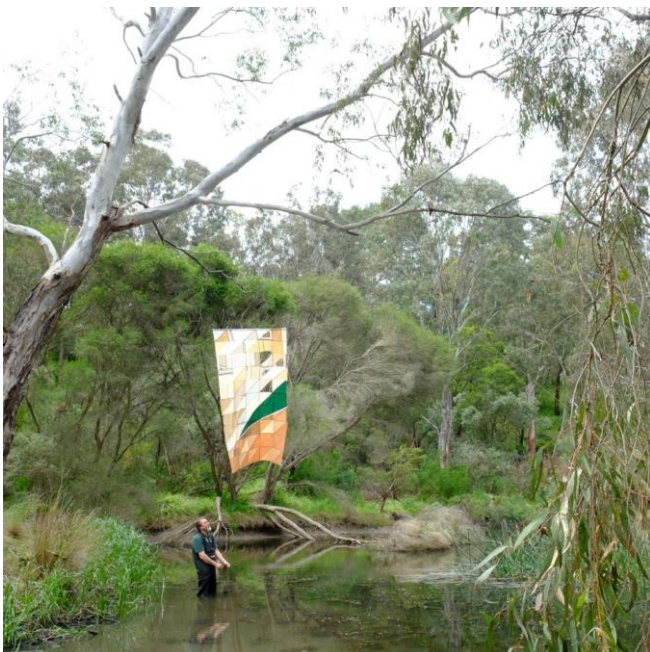
Map of Contemplation reflects this theme and also links to the spiritual trail in the park. To develop her work, she consulted with rangers and volunteers and used flora from the park to create dyes for the fabrics.

You could view the art at the billabong in the Ivanhoe Wetlands on the Ivanhoe side of the park downstream from Clifton bridge. This site was chosen because it is a contemplative place on the spiritual trail.

The art has been cleverly suspended near and over the water. The shapes move with the wind mimicking the movement of the gum trees and their natural fabrics create a harmony with their surrounds but also make a point of difference.

Ann organized talks on her creation on Sunday November 6 enhanced the **community's** appreciation of her work.

We really appreciate her continued involvement in the Darebin Parklands



Installation of art work suspended over billabong.



Photo taken from spiritual trail site on a windy day

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## COMMUNITY BONFIRE NIGHT 'A RAGING SUCCESS'

After a heap of rain, the initial date for the bonfire on the 9<sup>th</sup> September was cancelled and the flames were lit the following Friday the 16<sup>th</sup>. Rangers Pete and Katy had prepared the pyre carefully. Dead wood from all over the park had been collected and used to create a pyramid that reached for the sky. Given the wet conditions we had a great turnout. DPA c'tee members set up a stall and distributed pamphlets about memberships etc. Carina arrived with a huge bag of marshmallows for the crowd. As the fire died down kids danced around the flames and the marshmallows were toasted. Thanks to Peter Wiltshire who somehow created a raging fire in the middle of a major wet spell.



# Up and down the creek



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

Did you know that sitting a desk as a job will reduce **your life expectancy by up to two years!** That's why the Coordination staff at DCMC use any opportunity we can to get away from our desks and explore, work and manage the wonderful waterway for which we spend so long talking and typing about!

## **Northern Regional Trail Strategy. [The big picture for bike travel in the North]**

One of our favourite ways to get along the creek is by bike and the newly released Northern Regional Trail Strategy will hopefully improve that ability. The strategy is a collaboration between the northern municipalities of Melbourne and aims to identify key regional trail links and prioritize these for State Government funding. You will all be aware of the lower Darebin connection currently underway south of Heidelberg Road, but what about the important Tee Street connection, or the upgrading of granitic trails in the northern part of the catchment? The Tee Street bridge is the last crucial section of a number of years work that will join both north-south existing trails between Darebin and Whittlesea Councils but also provide a long awaited east-west creek crossing near Bundoora Park. Whittlesea Council is also on a three-year mission to upgrade all its gravel pathways to hard surface which is a significant undertaking for this ever growing part of Melbourne. Check out the full report here:

[https://www.bicyclenetwork.com.au/media/vanilla\\_content/files/Northern%20Regional%20Trails%20Strategy\\_Final.pdf](https://www.bicyclenetwork.com.au/media/vanilla_content/files/Northern%20Regional%20Trails%20Strategy_Final.pdf).



**Section of Merri Creek trail. City of Moreland**

## **DCMC's role in the planning process of Local Gov't**

As you may be aware, DCMC is a referral authority under the Local Government Planning Scheme and as such we get to comment on planning applications and development that may have an impact on the values of the Darebin Creek. Most of these pass by with little input, as they are a natural progression of the increase in urban density of Melbourne and are a reasonable and expected use. The issues obviously arise when development applications **push too much. Then there is a list of 'too'. Too** much, too many, too close, too high, too reflective, too much tree removal, too little revegetation, and so on. DCMC does its best to oppose this type of development and in most outcomes, obtain concessions such as increased setback and more screening vegetation. For those that venture north of the Parklands, you will soon see one of these in the form of warehouses on the former Furlan Club oval.

## **Educational Initiatives**

We are also currently working on a new interpretive project that can be used and festivals, events, and schools. This new display board is an interactive push button board – this might sound lame, however we have designed the system to play eight different sounds from three different ecosystems – this will also match a transferable front image which has been hand drawn by a local artist and depicts the fauna in **its natural habitat. We'll let you know when it's** complete so you can drop on by and push some buttons.

**Adrian Infanti  
Darebin Creek Coordinator**



**Cycling [circa early 20<sup>th</sup> Century]**





## JR NEWS ROUNDUP

### Halloween comes to the Park

On Monday 31st October from 6-8.00pm a range of Halloween enthusiasts 'dressed to kill' participated in some fun Halloween activities.

They followed a treasure hunt around the parklands at dusk and made some specially designed craft activities to celebrate this spooky day.

Chocolate witches' hats in the form of cakes were a specialty and proved to be delicious.

Games were organized and the kids had a great time.

Special thanks to Maree Trentin who initiated and organized the night. It may become a regular part of the Junior Rangers calendar. She also suggested that we use the night to educate young people about the bat species in the park.

As part of the night's activities students collected Bat Fact Cards



Anyone for a witches hat?







## JR NEWS ROUNDUP

### 4 November Junior Rangers Campout

On a windy late afternoon 16 Junior Rangers and their parents set up camp in the Ivanhoe wetlands near the billabongs. An impressive and colorful array of tents quickly appeared ad the bush.

The fire was lit the Billy boiled and the kids lapped up the open spaces. For some it was their first time camping -a memory to rival the day the Dogs won the grand final. Dinner was served at dusk -a gourmet BBQ followed by ice-creams and that traditional Aussie favorite – 'Damper on a green stick'

Tracey Bradely led a spotlight tour to discover the wonderful fauna in the park. As the campers settled in their igloos the city seemed a 'million miles' way. A memorable experience.

Many thanks to the parents who came so well equipped, and to the DPA committee members who helped out. A special thank you to Ranger Katy who ensured the campers had everything they needed and to James Garriock whose thoroughness and efficient co-ordination of the event ensured that the camp ran smoothly.

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Setting up battling a force nine gale??



45 minutes later camp is up



The moring after --'Breakfast is served'

## Council Elections and the issues in the park

*You'll recall that we asked council candidates whether they'd support an innovative approach to addressing the behavior of some dog owners in the Parklands. For those of you who didn't have time to look at the source documents, here is what some of the successful candidates from Banyule and Darebin said. **James Garriock***

### Banuale City Councilors

Peter Castaldo (new Councilor for Griffin Ward)

I must say I love the Darebin parklands. I ride my bike along the path to work and it's the park that gives me most joy of all the parks in Melbourne. My partner also enjoys riding through and she always has stories of the animals she comes across in the park. I have had a few close incidents with roaming dogs and snakes and agree that there should be some strategy to enable all of the users an opportunity to enjoy the park. I would look forward to hearing more about the initiative you are proposing if I am fortunate enough to get into council. I don't know who's done the hard work in Darebin parklands but I must say I value the park greatly and would be very interested to learn how I could help the park in the future.

Tom Melican (councilor for Ibbot Ward and Mayor of Banyule)

Thanks for the information, as a long term supporter of the Darebin Parklands and all your fantastic work, I would be very pleased to assist in any initiative that would enable all users to enjoy the park together. As a lifelong cyclist, very happy to ensure that riding is made safer for recreational and commuters, while protecting pedestrians and dog owners and making the Darebin Parklands an even more special place. Looking forward to working with DPA in the future.

Craig Langdon (Councilor for Olympia Ward)

Thank you for your email. I of course agree in principle. I do need to know the estimated costs to ascertain whether it needs a budget bid or I can be funded through the grants program. I've certainly been leading the push on Council for fenced Dogs of lead areas within our parks. Malahang Reserve 2 years ago and now Ford Park. I don't believe Griffin Ward has any fenced dog of lead areas. I think research would be extremely important to better understand dog owners approach to our park & gardens. Certainly I want to support our native. This is highlighted by my campaign against Indian myna birds

### Darebin Councilors

Susan Rennie (Rucker Ward councilor)

I love the Darebin Parklands and spend many wonderful hours there with my kids. When they were toddlers, we loved to go puddle stomping after rain. This is a truly magical places that merits a high level of care and protection. With regards to dogs, I agree there is a high level of non-compliance with existing rules that must be addressed for all the reasons you outline above. I have the skills, experience and commitment to ensure that this occurs if I am elected to Council.

Kim Le Cerf (Councilor for Rucker ward)

Trent McCarthy (Councilor for Rucker ward)

We are extremely supportive of your initiative to conduct a community behavior change program at Darebin Parklands and would welcome it coming to Council. We are also very familiar and fond of the work undertaken by Behaviour Works Australia, given our dealings with them in our professional roles. We believe your proposed program would sit neatly within an initiative we are taking to the Council elections, which is to establish a Darebin Nature Trust. The Darebin Nature Trust will have a corpus of approximately \$10 million, \$5m of which will be an initial contribution from Darebin Council's open space reserve. We expect the difference would consist of contributions from State Government, philanthropy and individual bequests.

The Trust will be managed by an independent board, comprising of representatives from various creek and park committees and friends' groups in Darebin, as well as experts in biodiversity and natural heritage protection. The Trust will be charged with the responsibility for investing in projects that protect and enhance our natural places and open spaces. This may include strategic land acquisition to increase Darebin's open space provision and protect remnant bushland. We believe the time has come for significant and sustained investment in this area, given that the state population projection for Darebin is an increase of 40,000 people over the next 14 years (from 150,000 to 190,000). This increase will create greater pressure on our green spaces. It will also create greater demand for engagement with our natural environment, with more people living in apartments and surrounded by concrete.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss with you in more detail the Darebin Nature Trust concept and how it can ensure investment in important projects such as the one you've put forward

