

PRESIDENTS REPORT

The new year is upon us. Please spare our Treasurer some administration by renewing your membership. Even better, save yourself two years of administration by renewing for three years. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the number one reason we lose members is forgetfulness, and the three-year membership gives you two years of insurance against forgetting.

It looks as though 2018 will be a year of ribbon cutting in and around the Parklands. The Yarana trail has been built, although the north end could still be improved. The Darebin Yarra link trail is also finished and waiting to be opened. By the election we also expect that the Grange Rd level crossing project and the Chandler bridge will also be complete. On the Ivanhoe side the apartment building frenzy continues. Closer to home, the Melbourne Farmers Market project is gaining traction and will bring even more people into contact with the Parklands.

Inside the Parklands, Clean Up Australia Day is coming. The report into dog owner behaviour has been written and we'll share that with you soon. The Committee is having its first meeting and the time has also come to think about renewal and succession. If you are interested in joining the committee this year please get in touch – many hands make light work.

James Garriott. President

WILDLIFE IN THE PARK

As well as the odd snake spotted in the park over summer an echidna and an Eastern Water Dragon have been recorded.

Check out our spiky friend on video near the shed

<https://www.facebook.com/PracticalBeekeeper/videos/783578961828538/>

Thanks to Benedict – 'The Practical Beekeeper' for the video



Eastern Water Dragon down near Ivanhoe Wetland, (photo from Brian Hill)



General meeting/Guest Speaker

March 13 - 7.30. Education Centre

Catch up on the latest issues in the park e.g. Darebin Creek Trail, the Wingrove street path and the details of Park Care Days etc. The details of a guest speaker will be confirmed on our website and an email to members

The Education Centre is at the end of Separation St

Events calendar 2018

4 March Clean up Australia Day
 13 March General Meeting/Info Night
 27 May Park Care Day
 29 May Annual General Meeting
 24 June Park Care Day
 24 June Park Care Day
 21 August General Meeting/Info Night

Pete's page

News from the ranger in charge

Hello Members

I hope everyone had a great break over the holiday period.

Katy and I worked through as we had a few jobs in the park that we wanted to do while it was quiet. We have had more freedom to undertake works here with the tractor that isn't really possible when bushkinders and schools are here. Anyway, I will use this opportunity to update what is going on here along the Darebin Creek

The Darebin /Yarra shared trail.

I meet with the Darebin /Yarra project manager (Matt) today (5 Feb) to look at the areas DCMC will be maintaining when the project is completed. Matt mentioned that there are two weeks of welding to complete, also the landscaping/planting and clean up jobs to yet to be tackled. While Matt wouldn't be pinned to an opening date he hinted that late March was looking most likely. He did stress how the project would be able to finish quicker if people stopped breaking into the site for a look as they spend a lot of time securing the work zone rather than getting on with the outstanding jobs.



The Wingrove Street Path

From the outset I want to say that we have been disappointed with the construction of the Wingrove Street extension as I feel the project hasn't been executed as well as it should have. I have been assured by Council that judging the project at this early stage is premature and that further works are planned that will change my view. Well a T junction is a T junction and no coloring of the concrete is no coloring!!

I won't mention the signs even though one is pointing the wrong way. I'll be happier when the Parklands Avenue exit is closed so I don't have to worry about cyclist getting hit by a car on that corner. But the good thing is it's better than what we had originally.

Signs & Fencing



Katy and I have been installing the new signs and the post and rail fencing around the Snake Grass area. The Snake Grass sign is installed on a basalt rock while the Napier Waller sign is on sleepers low to the ground.

Both signs were designed by Katy and the artwork by local artist Carly Altree –Williams. We are very proud of our new signs and we hope you like them too. We also intend to construct an all-weather path along the south edge of Snake grass so dog walkers have better access to the off-lead zone in the next month.

The Thursday crew winning the local community Australia Day award was a delight and well deserved. Katy and DCMC nominated the Thursday Crew for the work they do every Thursday morning at the parklands. Katy and the DPA members of the crew attended the presentation ceremony at Eltham and from all reports it was a fun day. My apologies to Ian and the crew, as I was unable to attend the presentation. Finally, Katy will be taking the last two weeks of February off and I'll be taking 6 weeks leave from 5th March.

Don't forget clean-up day Australia which is Sunday 4th March here at the Parklands from 9.30am to midday. Registration will be at the DCMC ranger office.

See you in the park
Peter Wiltshire

DATES FOR PARK CARE DAYS

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

March 4th (9.30am-12pm) - Clean Up Australia Day
Meet at Rangers Hut, end of Separation St
Alphington

May 27th (1pm-3pm) - Park Care Day - Planting

Native grasses and lilies at Zeroland (near car park/bush kinder)

June 24th (1pm-3pm) - Park Care Day - Planting
shrubs and ground covers Ivanhoe Wetland/Crossing
Stones

July 22nd (1pm-3pm) - Park Care Day - Planting
saltbush, daisies and kangaroo grass at Zeroland
(near car park/bush kinder)

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)

DPA VOLUNTEER GROUP WINS AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD - JAGA JAGA.



On Australia Day members of the Thursday group headed to Eltham Community center to receive an Australia Day award for ***“improving the Darebin Parklands for our community as well as improving the habitat for all creatures that live there.”*** In all 11 members received awards.

The event was attended by many volunteers [it was packed!!!!] and well organized. Jenny Macklin, Federal Member for Jaga presented numerous awards to an amazing variety of volunteer groups.

The Thursday group thanks Katy for her support.

FROM THE ARCHIVES



B&W photograph of the area which was to become the Northcote side of the Darebin Parklands. Shows toilet and other buildings which were probably part of old bluestone quarry operation. The tree at right is still standing. The path behind is the extension of Separation Street.

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

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

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. A gourmet cup of morning tea is always provided.

Other projects 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.

Katy also organizes bird identification walks with the group. It is amazing the variety of birdlife in the Park. On our last walk we identified 22 native species.

We are looking forward to another productive year. If interested in volunteering please contact:

Katy Marriott.: katy@dcmc.org.au

Up and down the creek

News from the DCMC Coordination Division

School is just starting for the year so it's been a quiet couple of months for the Darebin Creek Education Program. The last six months of 2017 was one of the busiest ever for the program with 2970 students participating. Nine schools participated in various ways with our Adopt A Creek Spot project. Schools could design ground stickers to be printed with stormwater messages, or undertake creek clean-ups with a provided clean-up kit, while others constructed nestboxes to create habitat along their adopted creek stretch.

Looking forward to being able to have schools utilise the Darebin Parklands Smartphone Orienteering course. Two teachers from local high schools have already shown interest. I've written up some basic instructions which have been posted on the main Parklands noticeboard as well as the DPA Facebook. I had a go at the course and completed all of the 30 controls in a relatively slow 44 min. My knowledge of the Parklands a positive, my relative lack of physical fitness a definite drag factor!! Pine Ridge a bit higher than I remembered... I recommend anyone to give it a go at least once, it's a lot of fun and great for fitness.



Orienteering in the Darebin Parklands

The Friends of Darebin Creek AGM will be preceded by an edible weeds presentation on 21 Feb at 7pm. More info at

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

Peter Grenfell
DCMC Education Officer

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CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY MARCH 4. 9.30-12.00

Meet at Rangers Hut, end of Separation St Alphington. Hardy shoes, protective gloves and sunscreen are advised.

Peter Wiltshire and members of the DPA committee will be in attendance. There is plenty of litter along the creek banks for everyone.



Clean up Australia Day 2017

Junior Ranger Campout 2018

To be eligible for the campout later in the year you must help on Clean-up Australia Day at the Darebin Parklands on March 4th and give us your name. We will select 6 lucky families at random for the camp-out. If you Join the DPA you will have the chance to win a campout spot. Membership forms will also be available.



JUNIOR RANGER EVENTS 2018

This year there have been an exciting range of activities planned for our Junior Rangers proposed. Once again Maree Trentin has done a fantastic job as coordinator of the programs

For further details re dates times keep an eye on our web page.

www.dpa.org.au

Proposed activities for 2018 include:

- Archery
- Spotlighting with a ranger
- A Celebration of Halloween.
- A Sports Day
- Junior Ranger Campout

**Don't forget to come along to the
Community Bonfire Night on 21 September**

