

DAREBIN PARKLANDS NEWS



DAREBIN
PARKLANDS
ASSOCIATION



FRIENDS
OF DAREBIN
PARKLANDS

June 2023 – Turning 50



'Founders of the DPA', Anthea Fleming and Sue Course, cutting the cake with a map of the Parklands.

President's speech at the 50th.



Rangers past and present, Erin Roberts, Kim Davis, Katy Marriott and Peter Wiltshire

President's Report

Turning 50 is fun!

Thank you to everyone that attended and contributed to the Friends of Darebin Parklands' 50th Anniversary celebration!

The sun shone for us and we had a great day discovering the birds of the Parklands with Graeme, experiencing the Spiritual healing Trail with Uncle Trevor, marvelling at the display, getting stuck into the Junior Ranger activities and delicious Alphington CWA lunch; all enjoyed to the sounds of Kraken!

We wrapped up with cake cut by our founders Sue Course and Anthea Fleming! Thank you to the wonderful group of volunteers, DCMC staff, Uncle Trevor, Kraken, Alphington CWA and artist Nicole van Dijk for making this day possible and so special. Thanks also to the Bennett Street Crew for their generous donation and Melbourne Farmers Market, Alphington Community Centre and Jellis Craig for helping promote the day and Carly Atree-Williams for the wonderful image on our cake.

We've come a long way, 50 years ago this land had been cleared, quarried, used as a rubbish dump and was facing further degradation. Our community rallied to stop this, then lobbied to create and restore the Darebin Parklands. We were delighted to have our founders, early members, community, DCMC Board and representatives from all levels of government the celebrating with us. We were also delighted that local member Kat Theophanous MP attended, and the Honourable(s) Tania Plibersek and Ged Kearney sent birthday greetings and subsequently visited the Parklands and were amazed at what has been achieved.

The haven we enjoy today has grown from these roots due largely to the vision of DCMC Ranger Peter Wiltshire. We are very grateful to Ranger Pete and Rangers Kim Davis, Kate Grinter, Katy Marriott and their predecessors for generously sharing their skills and time with us. This has enabled the Friends of Darebin Parklands' Park Care Days and the Thursday Crew gain bush care skills and help create this refuge, which was so important for many people during lockdown and letting us escape the city without leaving it.

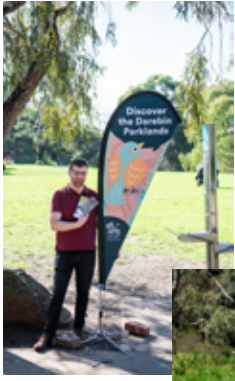
Be part of the next chapter of our FDP journey by joining us at our 2023 Park Care Days. Our first Park Care Day was a great success, with many intrepid Park Carers braving the cold and damp day, on 28 May, to plant over 1,300 plants to restore the Ivanhoe floodplain! The next Park Care Day is on Sunday 25 June from 1-3pm, register your interest using this Eventbrite link <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/friends-of-darebin-parklands-june-park-care-day-tickets-652474367397> We'll be continuing our habitat enhancement of the Ivanhoe floodplain, funded this year by a Victorian Landcare Grant. There will be a further 2 Park Care Days this year on Sundays 23/7 and 20/8 from 1-3pm, come and join in!

Get actively involved in our FDP future by joining our Committee or consider helping with specific activities, such as junior rangers or assisting with our social media and website.

We hope to see you at our AGM on Tuesday 27 June at 7.30pm in the Gleeson Centre (where we held the display on our 50th). Learn about the fish ladder from Melbourne Water's Dana Grech, elect your committee and reminisce about our 50th while viewing our photos.

Maryanne Newton, Friends of Darebin Parklands President

Turning 50 – The Celebration Event April 30



Photographer Jack Foley



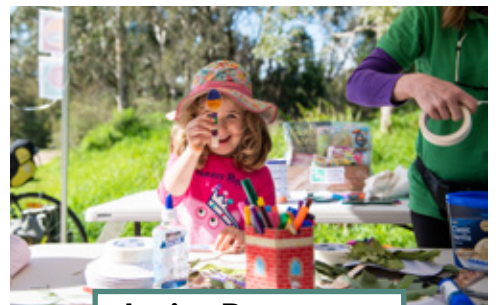
Spiritual Healing Trail led by Uncle Trevor Gallagher

Photographer Emma Ferguson





People ...



Junior Rangers ...



Music ... The band Kraken perform

Photographer Jack Foley



Up and Down the Creek

DCMC Coordination report

DCMC have received formal notification from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action of their Urban Rivers and Catchments \$500,000 funding into DCMC. This will significantly increase our capacity to deliver our strategic priorities and we have drafted a position description to advertise for a new project officer. We were delighted to host Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek and local member Ged Kearney to acknowledge the investment.



Margaret de Kam DCMC President, Minister Tania Plibersek, Danny Reddan DCMC, Maryanne Newton FDP at at Darebin Parklands

We recently received our eDNA results for the parklands, Hanson Quarry and La Trobe wildlife sanctuary ponds. The results showed that the parkland ponds sampled (all aside from Ivanhoe) are free of mosquito fish which supports our planning to translocate Growling Grass Frogs from the Hanson Quarry. We are also partnering with Melbourne University researchers to swab the frogs to test for Chytrid at the Hanson Quarry.

On ground with the Nangak Tamboree project, the Narrap Unit are focussed on post burn management, particularly weed control and seeking advice from the expertise at City of Banyule and their experience of managing the neighbouring grasslands. As the planting season is fast upon us, we are looking to collaborate with the La Trobe University Botany Society students to lead plantings with schools and community in identified zones.

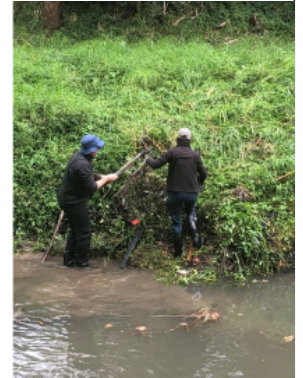
The FoDC Reach Four revegetation projects are progressing with community planting days scheduled for June 4th at Kingsbury and July 2nd at McLeans-Greenhills.

Likewise, our Queens Jubilee co-investment in Melbourne Water funded sites in Whittlesea are progressing with planting, largely through schools engagement to take place through winter.

The Habitat Conservation and Management (HCMC) 2023 course is slowly receiving enrolments in the lead up to its start in August. Promotion will pick up in the coming weeks and months.

A shopping trolley muster was held on May 3rd with the Darebin and Banyule Bush crews. Just 4 trolleys were retrieved from the creek compared with over 100 in 2000 demonstrating progress in how the Darebin

Creek is treated. Staff from Vicinity (Northland shopping centre) were engaged in a clean up and discussion about how they can further contribute to the creek. Vicinity and DCMC will be producing a proposal for ecological restoration of their creek frontage.



Citizen Science

There currently have 60 nestboxes in 4 clusters being monitored by community volunteers. Darebin Bush crew will construct and install a further 50 nestboxes in gaps along the creek, also at Cherry St Reserve in Macleod. DCMC to assist in installation of nestboxes.

The first Waterwatch site induction, training and monitoring at new site at Nangak Tamboree wetland adjacent to new La Trobe University sports precinct.

Bird Survey in Granite Hills 2 April (pictured) – over a dozen Friends of Darebin Creek and other community birders used eBird to record birds spotted and heard.



Darebin Creek Education Program

has been busy working with a number of schools and community events including:

St Bernadette's Primary – litter audit and waterbugs discovery creek excursions.

St Pius X Bush School – waterbugs excursion in Heidelberg West.

Gumnut Preschool Alphington – egg carton treasure hunt at Darebin Parklands.

Nature Discovery Walk, City of Whittlesea Public Event, Epping - nestbox puzzles and frog board. Montmorency South Primary, Country and Culture Day - waterbugs activity incursion.

Ivanhoe Primary – History of Darebin Parklands and cultural uses of plants - guided walks.

Epping Secondary College – RARC (Rapid Appraisal of Riparian Condition) creek excursion.

News from the Rangers

Thursday Crew

During the week of 15th-21st we celebrated National Volunteer Week! Pete and myself are extremely proud of the work of the Thursday Crew. Each of them are very dedicated and motivated individuals and it's always the highlight of our week. Thursday Crew have transformed many areas of the park and are fantastic at caring for the planting sites. Thank you Thursday Crew!

Highlights

The crew have been hard at work the past few months. Weeding in Snakegrass, Zeroland, Pobblebonk, Mount Puffalo and down by the creek. This has helped keep the weeds at bay so the native plants can thrive!

Over Summer I collected seed from the park and propagated a few hundred Drooping Sheoaks (*allocasaurina verticillata*) and Hedge Wattles (*acacia paradoxa*). After months of growing, they were planted back into the park. Thursday Crew planted around 200 plants into a section of the Tip Site (along the dirt track on the same side as the office). We want to make this area denser to help keep the weeds down, deter dogs and expand habitat for wildlife.

We've had some fun propagating grass seeds over the past two months. After sowing 10 trays of seed, we set up shop at the park depot and with a massive team effort, we pricked out 4000 plants! Pricking out is where we carefully remove an individual grass seedling from the tray and pot it up into a larger tube. These grasses will also be planted back into the parklands with a bunch of them being planted at the project site 'Restoring Ivanhoe Floodplain' at the May Park Care Day.

This is a plant list of what Thursday Crew have propagated:

- Common Tussock-grass (*poa labillardierei*)
- Sword Tussock-grass (*poa ensiformis*)
- Soft Spear-grass (*austrostipa mollis*)
- Feather Spear-grass (*austrostipa elegantissima*)
- Common Wallaby-grass (*rytidosperra caespitosum*)

Barry has also been growing lots of Murnong Yam Daisies (*microseris lanceolata*) at home which he generously donated and were planted this week near the creek. Thank you Barry!

Another big thank you to all our volunteers who come and help look after the park. It's a lovely community of people and there's always good vibes on Thursday mornings!

Ranger Kim



Pete's Page

Hello everybody

Firstly, thank you to everybody for the 50th birthday of the Parklands and the newly named Friends of Darebin Parklands (FDP) celebrating its 50th Anniversary. Darebin Parklands is here because of the Rockbeare Conservation Group/Darebin Parklands Association/Friends of Darebin Parklands. We might have changed the name, but not our love of this special Parklands.

It was an amazing day and the weather was mighty kind to us as the surrounding weekends were cold, raining and miserable.

We have hit the planting season in full swing. The Thursday Crew have helped us grow over 5000 indigenous grasses in Kim's new nursery set up which is saving DCMC thousands of dollars.



Thursday Crew potting up grasses

We started the Ivanhoe Floodplain project with the first Parkcare day on 28th May planting over 1200 grasses. The weather was raining, cold and with the creek in minor flood yet 22 warriors turned up which was inspirational.

The Thursday Crew continues to grow with new members coming along every week helping us weed, plant and protect sites within the parklands. We conducted a training day for the Thursday Crew with mycologist Dr. Sapphire McMullan-Fisher and are planning more Thursday training days later in the year introducing members to other experts.

The Federal Minister for Environment Tanya Plibersek along with our local member Ged Kearny, visited the parklands to formally announce funding of \$500K each for both Darebin Creek and Merri Creek and both planted a Melbourne Yellow Gum (*Eucalyptus leucoxylon* ssp. *connata*) the tree associated with the endangered Swift Parrot. We found the minister to be very interested in the Parklands and its varied history. Much to her minders surprise the Minister decided to have a quick wander around the parklands (photo p 4).

The Australian Conservation Foundation has produced a small educational film here at the parklands for their social media platforms featuring Kim and I talking about our nest box program. I have attached a link below if you want to have a look.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5WfTRKTCvSI>

Our next Parkcare day is coming up on the 25th June 1pm at Ivanhoe Floodplain next to Ivanhoe Wetlands. We will continue our planting with your help so pop on down and plant some grasses and have a feed on us.

For more info and to register your interest, go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/friends-of-darebin-parklands-june-park-care-day-tickets-652474367397?aff=oddtcreator>

See ya in the park.

Peter & Kim



Friends of Darebin Parklands Parkcare Day 28 May

Next Park Care Day.

COME AND GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR PARK!

DAREBIN PARKLANDS PARK CARE DAY

Come along for a few hours of planting native grasses with the community to help restore the **Ivanhoe Floodplain**, followed by nibbles.

All welcome! Please wear weather appropriate clothing. Gloves, planting tools and refreshments provided.

SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST!



**1pm - 3pm
SUNDAY
25th June**

Email for further info:
kim@dcmc.org.au



Junior Rangers Spotlight night with Ranger Pete - June 30

Get more details during the year at www.fdp.org.au or www.facebook.com/darebinpark

AGM Update:

The decision has been taken to delay the AGM until 27 June to allow time to complete the required organisational tasks including finding a member willing to undertake the role of Secretary. Please think about who we can approach to take this role – we have a summary of the role and responsibilities.

Guest speaker will be Dana Grech.

Anthea Fleming (pic) is the nomination for Life Membership at the AGM.



Events calendar 2023

- 25 June Park Care Day
- 27 June FDP AGM 7.30 pm
- 30 June Juniors Spotlight night
- 23 July Park Care Day
- 29 August General Meeting
- 30 August Park Care Day
- TBC September ... Black Snake production
- 30 September Spotlight night for adults
- 28 November End of year BBQ

Nest Box Action

Attached are the latest stats for our nest box survey we carried out the first week of May.

Surprisingly, we found two Rainbow Lorikeet eggs laid. Not unheard of but not a good time of year to lay as it's starting to get really cold now.

Whether they're viable or not, only time will tell. We'll be monitoring them.



Your story:

This newsletter could provide a place for members to get to know each other a bit better, to share histories and dreams between old-timers and newcomers for example.

Would you like to tell your story with a few photos? Contact us by email and we can help you make it happen.





50 years!

**The Friends of Darebin Parklands
Annual General Meeting will now be held
on 27 June 2023**

**You are invited to attend
the
Friends of Darebin
Parklands
Annual General Meeting
at the Gleeson Centre,
7:30pm
Tuesday
27 June 2023**



**Learn about the
fish ladder with
Guest speaker,
Dana Grech
from Melbourne
Water**



**Learn about the fish
ladder, consider joining
the FDP Committee, you
could even become our
new Secretary!**

CONTACT US www.fdp.org.au or info@fdp.org.au



Join the Friends of Darebin Parklands

Name:
 Address:
 Telephone:
 Email:
 Date:

Membership options (circle one)

Individual annual	\$20
Individual 3 year	\$55
Family/couple/household annual	\$25
Family/couple/household 3 Year	\$70
Concession Annual	\$15
Concession 3 year	\$40
Organisation annual	\$70
Organisation 3 Year	\$200

Families or individuals can join the DPA through our website at www.dpa.org.au Fill in a membership form and pay [online](#), or post a cheque to DPA, PO Box 3, Ivanhoe 3079



Friends of Darebin Parklands

WANDER OBSERVE PROTECT
 Award-winning environmental friends' group, protecting and improving the bushland character of the Darebin Parklands

Darebin Parklands News is published quarterly by the Friends of Darebin Parklands (Darebin Parklands Association).

ABN 15090517257

email – info@fdp.org.au

www.dpa.org.au www.fdp.org.au

or www.facebook.com/darebinpark

PO Box 3 IVANHOE, 3079

2 Smith Street ALPHINGTON, VIC 3078

Editors – Ian McMaster (info@fdp.org.au)

– Jeanie Adams (jeanie.adams@bigpond.com)

