

August 2025

## 40 Years Our Ranger Pete



Ranger Kim was responsible for the event which brought many of Pete's friends to a surprise Thursday Crew morning tea. She presented him with the carved wood sculpture as a token of appreciation from us all.



Sue Course spoke. Appreciative bush kinders and bike riders were there. And good food.



We acknowledge that we operate on the lands of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people and that sovereignty was never ceded. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and future.



## FDP Action and Events

### Next FDP Info Afternoon (not night)

**Sunday 24 August, 1.30 pm.  
Rewild Your Nature Strip Talk**

Join us in the Gleeson Centre to learn about the valuable role our nature strips can play in supporting flora and fauna throughout the creek catchment and practical ways to help you plant your nature strip with Jake Duyvestyn.



Jake will share his hands-on experience with indigenous plantings along Hanover and Hope Streets in Brunswick. You'll leave with actionable ideas to help support your nature strip rewilding.

Jake holds a Master of Urban Horticulture from the University of Melbourne and is a restoration ecologist with Merri Creek Management Committee. *Jake @ bushieintheburbs*

With Banyule's policy launch all four creek councils now have policies to support nature strip planting!

Note: This Sunday afternoon replaces our general meeting previously scheduled for Tuesday evening 26 August.



## Advocacy Action Report

**At their meeting on 25 August, Darebin Council will be considering options for funding of DCMC and the Rangers: [About Council Meetings](#)**

**Details will be in the agenda which should be published on their website by 20 August. Members can look out for it when it is published: [Agendas](#). You can also observe the meeting via screen in the overflow area (registration required).**

**Expect an email from FDP no later than the 22nd with our views on the recommendations and suggestions for what members can do.**

**There is nothing further from Banyule Council. They have agreed to wait for Darebin's decision before proceeding with their own recommendations.**

**If you have questions or want to get more involved, email to: [info@fdp.org.au](mailto:info@fdp.org.au) or stay connected via our [Facebook](#) and Instagram.**

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## Coming up in the Parkland!

### Sunday 14 September: Spiders, Snakes and Safety

Our popular all-ages event returns! Learn how you, your pets, and local wildlife can coexist safely. Expert presenters will help us to understand how these species live in the wild and interact with the built environment. In the Gleeson Centre. Booking details coming soon.

### Monday 22 September: Night Sky with Astronomy Victoria

Explore the cosmos with experienced astronomers. We'll confirm the date (22nd or 23rd) closer to the event based on weather conditions.

Booking details coming soon. You will be updated with date and meeting place after you book.



## Joining Landcare

FDP has applied to join Landcare Victoria. Membership benefits include public liability insurance at a reasonable cost. FDP is currently covered under DCMC's insurance but overall costs can be reduced if FDP arranges its own cover.

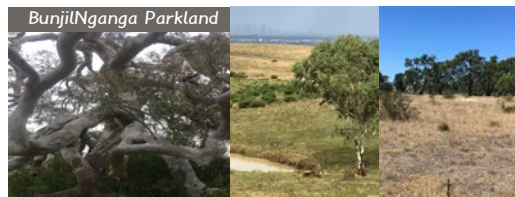


# Which way next for restoration of Darebin Creek?

On June 24 our meeting was addressed by **Dr Graeme Hamilton**, Secretary of the Friends of Darebin Creek, who described himself as an “enthusiastic volunteer, no expert” but he has certainly had his eyes and ears open while he was CEO of DCMC.

With the extension of urban growth boundary in 2010 the Victorian Government through Melbourne Strategic Assessment was to establish 1,200 square km grassy eucalypt woodland as a protected area, but 15 years later the first 40 ha was acquired!

Graeme shared his suggested 200 of high priorities for MSA acquisition. And BunjilNganga Parkland – from 200 to 1,000 ha.



He urged us to think of the Darebin Creek Valley as two joined projects. North of Ring Road there are large scale changes, farming land degradation, subdivision and urban encroachment but at the same time large-scale conservation areas.

## The Upper Darebin Creek Valley is “a different land”:

- Grassy Eucalypt Woodland Protected Area, in progress?
- Bunjil Nganga (Quarry Hills) Regional Parkland,
- Major housing developments.



South of the Ring Road, incremental changes occur, intensification of urban development continues, more of the same but worse. “Urban river syndrome” refers to growing conservation challenges after a long history of anthropogenic changes. But we can build on past restoration successes.

## The Lower Darebin Creek Valley is “a familiar land”:

- Weeds – old and new;
- Restoration for a changing climate;
- Working together – “Many-named Park” the example.

## Graeme then expanded on the following:

### Melbourne under a future climate:

- Temperature - Hotter summers, milder winters,
- Rainfall – drier autumn, winter and spring, summer rain in more severe storms,
- Fire - Increased fire danger, longer fire seasons.

### Ecological impacts:

- Species “on the edge” may struggle to survive or reproduce,
- Competition from weeds may increase,
- Possible spread of pests and diseases,
- Life cycles of beneficial species may be decoupled.

### Implications for restoration:

- Complex problems require a nuanced approach,
- Choose sites that build upon previous successful restoration work,
- Use resilience/tolerance already present in local plants,
- Plant for aspect, slope, soil condition, hydrology,
- Get the fundamentals right – give the plants a fighting chance,
- Build structure for better microclimate and soil,
- Observe, question, discuss, learn.





# DCMC Catchment and Engagement

## A big season of planting – one last chance to join in

We're getting closer to the end of this year's planting season, and what a season it's been! Thanks to the incredible support from our community, the Friends of Darebin Creek, local schools, project partners and collaborators, Councils, and funding providers, this has become one of our biggest planting efforts yet.

Together with over 350 volunteers, we've already planted more than 7,600 plants at 11 different sites. It's been a huge team effort, and everyone's involvement is helping bring to life a long-term plan to strengthen habitat and ecological connectivity in the Darebin Creek Valley.

But we're not done yet! There's still one more opportunity to get involved before the season wraps up and we'd love for you to be part of it!

We're excited to be part of this year's RESET Festival – Fed Square's spring festival of free family-friendly events, workshops and art about slowing down, reconnecting with nature, and exploring sustainability in creative ways.

**Sunday 7 September, 10am - 1pm**  
**at CT Barling Reserve, Reservoir.**

More info & register: <https://events.humanitix.com/planting-darebin-creek>

Planting is commissioned and presented by Fed Square in partnership with Creative Climate. Planting is generously supported by Landcare Victoria, Bupa and Melbourne Water.



*image credit: Fifteen Trees*

This planting location is facilitated by Darebin Creek Management Committee and forms part of The Darebin Creek Habitat Project – an OzFish/DCMC partnership funded by Microsoft and the Australian Government's Urban Rivers and Catchments Program, with the support of the City of Darebin.

**Talia Sawers, Catchment & Engagement Project Officer**

## Report from the Rangers

**It's been a busy season at the Parklands. Actually, make that a busy year! Here are the highlights.**

### Propagation

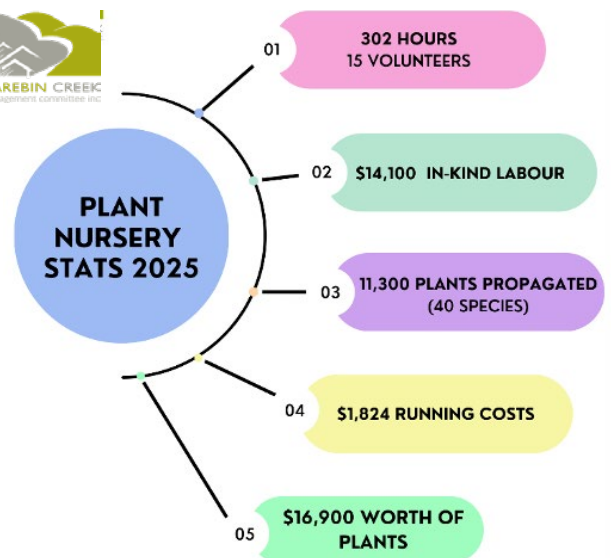
As well as carrying out our usual park duties, Pete, myself and volunteer Paul have been working hard on expanding and improving the indigenous plant nursery in our depot area.

Two weekly volunteer groups have been propagating since April and over 11,000 plants have been grown. An incredible achievement by the vols.

All plants used at the August Park Care Day were plants grown by volunteers using seed collected from the park. This is the first Park Care Day in history where we haven't purchased any plants for the event.

We're really proud of the nursery and are excited for what we'll achieve next year!

**Ranger Kim:**



# DCMC Catchment and Engagement

## Platypuses in Darebin Creek? Join the Search This September

A surprising visitor was spotted along Darebin Creek in June 2024 — a platypus. This rare sighting is the latest in a series of encouraging signs that these elusive animals may still inhabit parts of our urban waterways. Previous records include a confirmed sighting in 2017 and environmental DNA (eDNA) evidence collected in 2021, all pointing to the possibility of a small but persistent local population.

Now, a new citizen science effort aims to find out more — and we're inviting Friends of Darebin Creek to join us. Help monitor one of Australia's most iconic species.

### Introducing the Platy Project



The Platy Project is a nationwide initiative coordinated by the Australian Conservation Foundation that invites everyday Australians to help track platypus populations. The idea is simple: by spending time beside creeks and rivers, observing quietly at dawn or dusk, volunteers can help scientists gather crucial information about where platypuses still live — and where they might be disappearing.

This spring, we're bringing the Platy Project to Darebin Creek, with regular monitoring launching at two local sites:

**Ivanhoe – Monday 22 September 8-9am**

**Bundoora – Monday 29 September 8-9am**

### Why It Matters

Platypuses are one of the world's most unusual animals. Egg-laying mammals with duck-like bills and webbed feet, they are specially adapted for life in freshwater. However, their numbers are declining across many parts of Australia due to habitat loss, water pollution, and the impacts of climate change.



© Tom Crawshaw

Urban waterways like Darebin Creek are particularly vulnerable — but they also represent a chance for recovery, if we can protect the ecosystems that still support platypus populations.

Monitoring efforts rely on community involvement, and every observation — even when no platypus is seen — adds valuable data to national research efforts. Over time, this information helps scientists and conservationists track changes, identify threats, and guide practical action to protect the species.

### Calling All Creek-Side Custodians

As passionate stewards of Darebin Creek, the Friends group is uniquely placed to contribute to this project. Your knowledge of the local environment, commitment to its health, and ongoing care make you ideal participants in this kind of community-powered conservation.

No prior experience is needed — just a willingness to sit quietly in nature, follow simple monitoring guidelines, and report what you see.

### Get Involved

**If you're interested in joining the Platy Project or would like more information, please contact:**

[therese@dcmc.org.au](mailto:therese@dcmc.org.au)

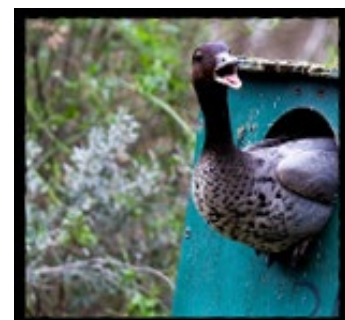
*Therese Grinter, Project Officer*

## More from the Rangers

### Nest Box Monitoring

You might start noticing the ducks getting a bit clucky! They're often seen calling out while standing on top of nest boxes! The Rainbow Lorikeets starting breeding early this year, with eggs laid as early as May!

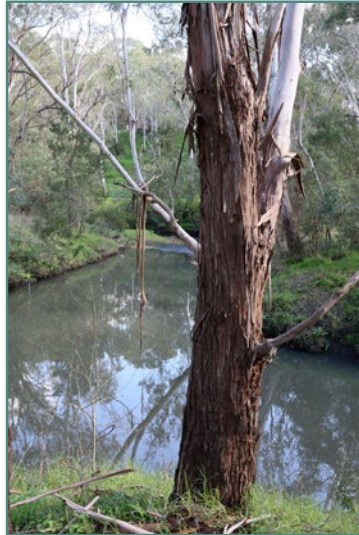
We've trained up a small team of volunteers who help us with the monthly monitoring by checking boxes with the nest box camera and collecting data. You can see previous month's stats by heading to the [DCMC website](#) and looking under the 'Fauna monitoring' tab. For the latest results for August see [page 9](#).





# Urban Waterways Forum

## Caring for Urban Waterways as Living Entities



This event was on 22 July 2025 at La Trobe University.

It was hosted by Darebin Creek Management Committee (DCMC) and Merri Creek Management Committee (MCMC), and explored the concept and potential benefits of caring for waterways as living entities.

Facilitators: Annette Salkeld (DCMC) and Bernadette Thomas (MCMC).

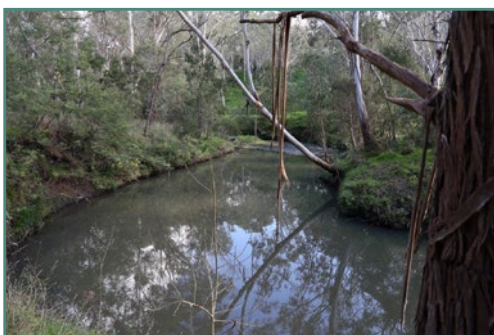
### Presenters:

Uncle Dave Wandin, Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Elder and Cultural Practices Manager at the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation;

Andrew Kelly, Convenor, The Waterways Alliance;

Mitra Anderson-Oliver, Senior Manager, Urban Waterways, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA);

Erin O'Donnell, Senior Lecturer, Melbourne Law School and Birrarung Council member (unable to attend but provided a presentation).



### Uncle Dave Wandin offered a Welcome to Country.

Uncle Dave emphasised the connection of land and water and explained that these cannot be separated by political frameworks. He reminded the audience that water was required for everything and challenged them to take an emotional perspective of waterways – think about looking out from the water (rather than from the land). In traditional lore, nobody owns the water or the land.

### Erin O'Donnell's presentation was displayed by Annette Salkeld.

It noted that colonial water laws have captured water for exploitation and aimed to 'tame' rivers. These laws have undermined our ability to see waterways holistically. In a global response, waterways have become 'persons' (The Universal Declaration on the Rights of Rivers). The Declaration asserts that all rivers have the right to:

- flow
- perform essential functions within its ecosystem
- be free from pollution
- feed and be fed by sustainable aquifers
- native biodiversity
- regeneration and restoration.

Globally some major waterways have been recognised as legal persons and/or living entities but this respect can be undermined by not allowing them to flow naturally (1).

The Yarra River Protection / Wilip-gin Birrarung murrnong Act 2017 identifies the river and its corridor as a single living and integrated natural entity for protection. It also established the Birrarung Council as an independent voice of the Yarra River, Birrarung (2).



Our relationship to waterways can be improved by working with indigenous peoples and accepting the status of waterways as holistic living entities which exist within cultural land and waterscapes.

In the panel discussion it was acknowledged that Melbourne Water's relationship to waterways has changed. Development continues to stress our waterways and although the Planning Scheme now considers waterways as 'living entities' more needs to be done. An emotional approach to planning around waterways may help, for example, consider 'lore' before 'law' and search for a language to emphasise what we feel. There is an opportunity to rebuild consultation through community. We should consider if the Act is doing what it was planned to do. Waterways are essential in keeping the whole environment healthy.

The conveners are planning a further forum to explore how these concepts can be implemented.

1. E O'Donnell (2020) 'Rivers as living beings: rights in law but no rights to water?' Griffith Law Review, 29(4); 643-68.

2. Birrarung Council [www.birrarungcouncil.vic.gov.au/](http://www.birrarungcouncil.vic.gov.au/).

**Report & pictures Graeme Vernon**

## Thursday Crew Volunteer Profile:

This is the fourth of a series of brief profiles of Thursday Crew volunteers.  
Graeme Vernon (photographer) and Duncan Pitt (interviewer).

### Introducing Elise Webb

**Do you live locally?** Yes.

**How did you become involved with the Thursday Crew?** My partner and I came across Thursday Crew with their sign inviting new volunteers while on a walk – he joined soon after and always spoke positively about his experiences there. I joined when my Thursday mornings became available!

**What do you like most about volunteering for the Thursday Crew?** Being outside in this beautiful parkland with this lovely community of people to make a tangible positive change each week, ultimately helping native revegetation efforts. Somehow the sun is always shining during Thursday Crew! It does wonders for your wellbeing.

**Are you otherwise involved in Darebin parklands?** I have volunteered at the plant nursery before and would love to become more involved there! Otherwise, I mostly use the park recreationally – it's a great place to explore, see critters, relax, and watch the sunset.

**Which weed do you dislike the most?** I don't have one; I dislike that weeds outcompete native plants, but I enjoy learning about them and pulling them all out!

**Do you have a favourite bird in Darebin Parklands?** This is a hard question... recently, I've been most excited to see tawny frogmouths, grebes, yellow-tailed black cockatoos, and kookaburras here!

**Do you have other environmental interests?** I care about conserving our environment and enjoy experiencing it! I'm a member of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria, mostly involved with the Fauna Survey Group. I also love hiking, camping, exploring exciting new places in nature, and slowing down to appreciate the little things like fungi, tree bark patterns, new growths, and bugs!

**What are your plans for the future?** I can see many different paths I could take, but I plan to be involved with the parklands and Thursday Crew for as long as possible!

**Any other comments or suggestions?** Thank you to the Rangers Pete and Kim as well as the rest of the DCMC and the volunteers for all the work they do to make Darebin Parklands the special place it is!



## Park Care Days

### Stage 3 of restoring Ivanhoe Floodplain is now complete!

Three Park Care Days were held down on the floodplain and the community planted over 1,800 plants as part of the five-year revegetation project. This year we saw our biggest volume of volunteers for Park Care Days with over 40 people at each event.

For example, Park Care Day on Sunday, July 20:

- 45 volunteers from the community came along
- 650 plants
- 3 areas were planted - the floodplain, the creek side and some of the slope heading up to Pine Ridge

It was a fantastic day with fantastic vibes! Thanks to everyone. (it's hard to get a photo that does the day justice).

**Next Park Care Day Sunday August 17 at Mt Puffalo.**

**Ranger Kim**





# Parkland Artists

## Parkland Sketchers

For the past few weeks, corners of the parkland have been sketched by Anne, Sharyn, Jo, Mary and Jeanie with a few others hoping to join.

If you'd like to join the WhatsApp group, contact Anne 0408574248 or Jeanie 0497172757. BYO art materials and something to sit on.

The current time is 2 pm on Mondays staying for an hour or two depending on inspiration, weather etc.



## Alphington Open Studios

The Friends of Darebin Parklands have become part of the annual Alphington Open Studios. Nine artists are exhibiting together in the Gleeson Centre, November 22-23. Look out for publicity materials.

Proceeds from some sales will be donated to the Darebin Creek Management Committee. We will also have Parklands merchandise for sale.

Artists are – Anne Silbereisen (watercolours), Mary McArdle (tapestry and embroidery), Maggie Brown (works on paper), Carolyn Lunt (collage of detritus), Jeanie Adams (textile jewellery) and Lisa Hui, Graeme Vernon and Kim Davis (photography).

Non-artist friends will be welcome to support this venture in practical ways.



## Wild At Art

### Do you know any very young artists or nature lovers?

Wild At Art, Australia's largest threatened species art competition for kids is back for 2025, with entries open from Sunday 7 September to Friday 24 October.

- Open to kids aged 5-12.
- All artworks must be of an animal or plant threatened with extinction within Australia. In the Parklands that means the **Gang Gang cockatoo** and **dianella amoena** (Matted flax-lily).
- Alongside the artwork, children also submit a short piece of writing reflecting on what they chose and why.

[Wild At Art webpage.](#)

## Thursday Crew worker and visual artist Maggie Brown writes:

Every day while I eat breakfast I quickly draw from memory something memorable that happened the day before. I've been doing this for a few years now!

I looked back on this year and found these two drawings of the Thursday Crew at work.

*One is from March 13th when we weeded next to the fish ladder with some of us standing in the creek. My tub of weeds kept floating away.*



*The other happened on May 1st when we weeded next to a kinder group, with some of them running down the hill as fast as they could, and others sitting.*



Thanks Maggie!

And contributions from others are welcome.



## Nest Boxes and Weeds



## How well do you know our weeds?

From Ranger Kim, **oat grass, fumitory, drain sedge, panic veldt-grass, grey sedge**

Oat grass



Drain sedge

Fumitory

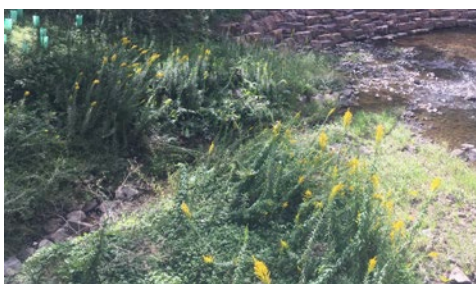


Panic veldt-grass



Grey sedge

From Graeme Hamilton, **goldenrod, south african weed orchid, and kapok/moth vine/cruel vine**



goldenrod



south african weed orchid



kapok/moth vine/cruel vine



## Friends of Darebin Creek



### Trip to the source

The FoDC have planned a bus trip to the source with input from Whittlesea Council and others who can contribute to our interest in understanding the Darebin Creek from source to confluence.

We missed out on essential funding for the cost of the bus hire and will have to apply during the next funding rounds so are suggesting that we do this trip in Autumn 2026.

*Margaret de Kam*

## Darebin Creek Catch-up

To subscribe: [info@dcmc.org.au](mailto:info@dcmc.org.au)



### WELCOME PLANTS:



*Arthropodium strictum*  
(Chocolate lily)



*Dianella amoena*  
(Matted flax-lily)  
endangered

## Sweepers

### July Report

Here is a photo of our April cleanup in Epping

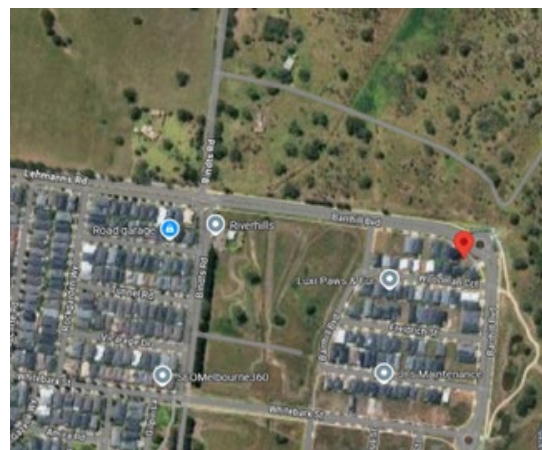


July 20th the small but determined sweepers group met the Carlisle Drive Playground close to where the Findon Creek flows into the Darebin Creek just north of Epping.

The surrounding park in this area is extensive and as well as play equipment on both sides of the creeks there are large garden beds mostly planted out with native shrubs. We collected lots of paper and plastic from these areas and a lot of polystyrene. The major items included a car tyre, blind fittings, a very squashed shopping trolley, an office chair and a long metal pole with a warning sign which once stood in the park reminding users of the need for care.

Although there were only several of us working we had sufficient impact to believe our two hours of cleaning up had been very useful and left the area significantly improved.

**Our August Creek Sweepers cleanup will be 9 AM Sunday 17th August  
Near 48 Barrhill Boulevard Wollert  
(continuation of Lehmann's Rd)**



It will be a good opportunity to see the sort of problem polystyrene pollution poses from construction sites, featured in recent [Yarra Riverkeeper report](#)

**"Polystyrene Pollution in the Yarra River: The Way Out".**

**Duncan Pitt**



## NEXT ISSUE NOVEMBER ...

### could include ...

- Forest Therapy
- Bush Kinders
- Peter Wiltshire – to celebrate his 40 years, do you have a story to tell? Or a photo?
- Parkland Artists – do you have an image to share?
- Christmas merchandise – any ideas?
- Photos of the Parklands – do you have an image you'd like to share?
- Moment in History – do you have an old clipping?
- Volunteer profile – who will it be?

All contributions to [jeanie.adams@bigpond.com](mailto:jeanie.adams@bigpond.com)

## Join the Friends of Darebin Parklands

[www.fdp.org.au/become-a-member/](http://www.fdp.org.au/become-a-member/)

### Membership options

These membership categories and fees were approved at the AGM in May 2025.

Type	1 year	3 years	Includes
Individual	\$25	\$60	One membership (15 yrs+)
Family	\$30	\$75	One or two memberships (15 yrs+) *
Organisation	\$50	\$120	Name & email for one member representative required. Show membership certificate on request.

\* Junior Ranger memberships included – no limit on number, and names are not required. A current family membership will be needed at events.



### Events calendar 2025

August 17, 9 am ..... Sweepers @ Wollert

August 17, 1-3 pm ..... Park Care Day

August 24, 1.30 pm ..... Information Afternoon, Indigenous Nature Strip Meadows

September 7, 10am – 1pm ..... Planting @ CT Barling Reserve, Reservoir.

September 14 ..... Spiders, Snakes and Safety

September 22, 8-9am ... Platy Project Ivanhoe

September 22, 8-9am Platy Project Bundoora

September 22/23 .... Star Gaze Astronomy Vic.

October 24 ..... Wild At Art

November 22-23. .... Alphington Open Studios in Gleeson Centre



Yellow-tailed black cockatoos by Kim Davis

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# John bids us farewell

**Mr John McInerney's vacant office looked like just another empty room at Heidelberg Council this week.**

Staff bustled about shifting furniture and paperwork into the new rooms at the rear of the Town Hall and in the midst of the activity, the city planner's departure took a back seat.

But John McInerney did not seem bothered. In fact, he had shunned the idea of a big farewell at council, preferring to leave quietly

and without fuss.

It is this reticence to steal the limelight that has characterised his contribution to Heidelberg Council for the past 11 years.

John McInerney is a softly spoken man, prone to seeing the humorous side of council affairs.

He often talks about having a "vision" for Heidelberg's development and to a certain extent his success as a town planner has been his capacity to inspire others.

"At a recent local government conference at Mt Eliza I was described as having a

charismatic personality," he said.

"I believe that you do need a sense of vision for the community's betterment, and so I always try to express that. I guess that is what they meant."

"A community needs shopping facilities, pleasant parks, and a sense that property values are increasing, and that has to be a visionary process."

John McInerney believes his sense of idealism grew out of his involvement with the turbulent 60s years which he spent in London and New York in his twenties.

After taking out an architecture degree at Melbourne University in 1962, he travelled to London and later married Anne who he had been engaged to in Melbourne.

This step was the start of six hectic years abroad in which he worked in London, Paris, and New York after completing a diploma in Town and Country Planning.

"During those years we became involved in the flower power movement, marched against Vietnam and believed love could change the world," he said.

"It was a very innocent time and great fun. In London we lived around the corner from Abbey Road and used to see the Beatles wandering around the London streets."

After six years of the international whirl, John and Anne returned to Australia and he joined the newly formed National Capital Development Council in Canberra.

Later, John worked for the Department of Urban and Regional Development during the heady Whitlam years, where he helped plan Darwin's future.

"It was at that stage with two children that I started to feel a desire to return to a familiar environment," he said.

Being Melbourne born and bred, it was not long before he cast his eyes homeward and in 1974 answered an advertisement describing the character of Heidelberg and calling for someone with "imaginative design solutions".

John recalls it was quite an inspiring advertisement and he felt very excited about returning to the city of his birth and taking up the post with Heidelberg Council.

"Heidelberg really was quite a visionary place for a few years in the 1970's, and there were a number of people with a strong sense of idealism," he recalled.

"Council has become more conservative these days, in the sense that it is less adventurous".

John McInerney was pleased to move into the local government arena, seeing it as the grass

Heidelberg's long serving town planner, Mr John McInerney said his sad farewells to a crowd of more than 100 close friends, councillors, staff and officers at a function in the Town Hall on Friday afternoon.

Mr McInerney has resigned after 11 years at Heidelberg to join the Melbourne City Council as director of city development.

He will be remembered at Heidelberg, however, for his unstinting efforts to preserve the many beautiful natural and historic features which make the city so special.

Heidelberg reporter SANDRA FULLOON spoke to Mr McInerney on the eve of his departure about his thoughts on the past and plans for the future.

roots of community expression.

He has made his mark on the city's development by attempting at all times to preserve its historic landmarks and open spaces.

But he has never pushed his point in council or behind closed doors — preferring to present his views and allow others to decide for themselves.

"Preserving the physical environment of Heidelberg — that is what I have been all about," he said.

"There is no point taking initiatives without community support for what you are doing. That is why I started the Heritage Report, so we could find the features that were recognised by the community as worth preserving."

Mr McInerney believed the city's two part Heritage Report was accepted readily by the community, but he battled for many years to have it accepted by a

majority of Heidelberg councillors.

"For years certain councillors and the administration here had different priorities as it was hard work getting them to accept would be a valuable project," he said.

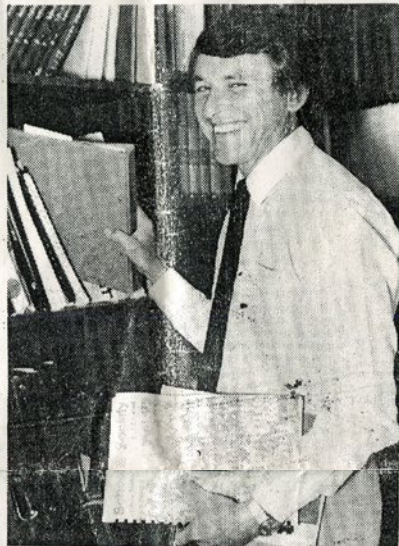
He believes the Heritage Report will complement overall planning priorities for the city and particularly the restructuring of Heidelberg's resident code regulating housing density.

"It will also help develop strategies for the major shopping centres and the future of the urban landscape," he said.

Mr McInerney said shopping centres have become social centres in today's society in the absence of churches and other meeting places.

"It is a pity they are developed for profit and do not really serve people's needs for community activities. I have

● Turn to P.26



● Heidelberg's Town Planner Mr John McInerney — sad to leave Heidelberg after 11 years but preparing for a new challenge at Melbourne City Council.

## John bids us farewell...

● Cont. from P. 2

always had a strong feeling that small centres must compete with regional centres like Northland.

"Heidelberg will have to provide community services in its strip shopping centres if they are to survive," he said.

John McInerney was a prime mover behind council's retail strategy study which proposes major changes for the city's strip shopping centres.

He believes this will play a major role in the economic development of Heidelberg and hopes his replacement continues with the thrust of the project.

Mr McInerney spoke enthusiastically about his involvement with West Heidelberg, citing council efforts to establish West Heidelberg

Community Centre, the Morobe St child care centre and redevelopment of the Mall as highlights of his 11 year term.

"I feel proud of the work council has done in West Heidelberg which has helped the area tremendously."

Residents of Ivanhoe and members of the Darebin Parklands Association thanked John McInerney for his efforts in restoring the parklands at a small farewell in the Rockbears Park before Christmas.

Mrs Sue Course presented him with a bouquet of Darebin's noxious weeds and a champagne bottle of Darebin Creek water for his years of tireless work with the association.

"One of my main interests in Heidelberg was preserving the

open spaces particularly the Darebin and the Yarra," he said.

"The role of a planning department is to plan the way parks fit into the overall scheme of a community. That concern led me to work with Sue Course to set up Darebin Park and ensure it remained viable."

He believed the development of the Yarra Valley Metropolitan Parks grew out of Heidelberg's concern for the river's preservation, something which has been close to his heart for many years.

"I really hope council ensures my replacement is of sufficient calibre to continue all the initiatives now underway."

"Heidelberg really needs someone who will keep it all rolling along," he said.





## Part 7 of Peter Wiltshire's Powerpoints Presentation

Wombat



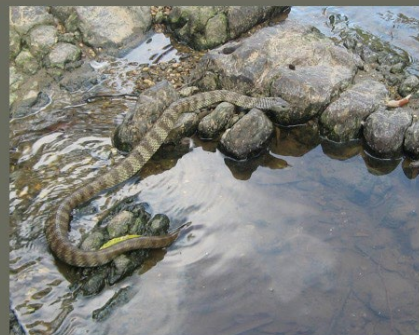
Australian Water-dragon



Eastern Blue Tongue Lizard



Tiger Snake



Marbled Gecko



Eastern WaterDragon



Badge Spider



Grey Huntsmen





Garden Orb Weaver



Green Jumping Spider



St Johns Cross Spider



Whitetail Spider



Wolf Spider



RedBack



Blue Ant Wasp



Red Bull Dog Ant

