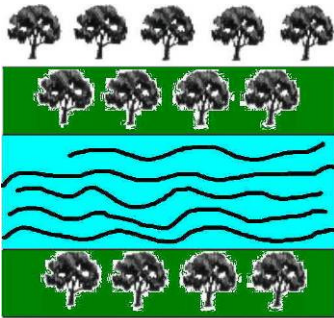


## News from Darebin Creek Sept 2011



Friends of Darebin Creek

**The Friends of Darebin Creek was formed in 1995 to protect, restore and conserve the Darebin Creek and it's adjacent parklands as a natural environment for the enjoyment of the community.**

### Creek Dates for your Diary:

- September 25<sup>th</sup> Cut and paint woody weeds, Bundoora Park Grasslands.
- October 30<sup>th</sup> – Hand weed Electric Spur, Heidelberg
- Nov 17<sup>th</sup> - Meeting DCMC Environment centre 7pm
- Xmas Party – TBA (Early DEC)

### NEXT EVENT – Sunday Sept 25<sup>th</sup>

**Cut and paint Woody Weeds, Bundoora Park Grasslands. From 10am – 12.30 pm. Morning tea provided.**

*Where:* Meet Grasslands Road Mel 19 E4 Bundoora park

Access also by new shared pathway

Michelle Perry of City of Darebin our host for the morning

See you all there!!!

### Committee Meeting - Wednesday Sept 14th Meeting at DCMC Environment Centre.

Before the meeting – we went on a night walk to see some nocturnal happenings in Darebin Parklands – for half an hour we explored the parkland and wetlands , hearing many Eastern common froglets, bats and other creatures. During the walk we managed to see an short finned eel swimming in the creek and disturbed quite a few ducks.

Other issues discussed

Northland Development meeting in August.

Olympic Village area – information sessions – houses planned, locals opposing taking parkland green wedge. A flyer has been designed.

- Next meeting is Thursday October 6<sup>th</sup> at the Hub , 155 Oriel Rd Heidelberg West.
- High Noon Festival diary – 18<sup>th</sup> Sept – High St Northcote. (note: went very well report next newsletter)
- Ivanhoe Structure Plan – some members have sent objections.
- Darebin Yarra Bike Link Campaign – see further in this newsletter.

- Upgrade FODC Website. Index a bit compressed.
- Speakers for next year AGM. All ideas from members welcomed?
- Memberships – 3 new received.
- Darebin Creek Management Committee meeting.
- 

*Remember – all are welcome to committee meetings – we like to hear what our members are passionate about in relation to Darebin creek.*

Meeting finished 9.01pm

## **Friends of Darebin Creek Meeting Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July at Darebin Parklands Environment Centre.**

By Helen Walker Cook

Various issues were discussed at this members meeting.

**Calendar for 2012** Discussion re importance of getting in early for publication in council calendars, also for publication in our newsletters, & other newsletters to encourage participation in activities. Involvement with Whittlesea a bit problematic because of distances, but they have some good events. Suggestion of a Soup Night in July, so people can come straight from work on a cold evening.

**Action: Sheryl** to contact councils & find out newsletter dates.

**Adrian H.** to do draft calendar for 2011.

**Northland Structure Plan:** discussion re lack of communication, particularly from Banyule Council to West Heidelberg residents, & lack of notice about information meetings. Concern re suggested new housing backing onto existing houses along Liberty Pde, north & south of Southern Rd. This will also mean new roads for access. Who owns the Green Wedge along the Creek? What is its designated zone? How can we protect it & save in from future unsuitable development. Peter went to Banyule Council meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> July, & said that councillors seemed to know very little about the strategic plan, and they saw it as a Darebin issue. Public information/discussion meeting to be held at West Heidelberg Neighbourhood Renewal community Hub, 155 Oriel Rd (next to Aldi) on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> August, 6.30 – 8.30pm, all welcome

**DCMC meeting** Sheryl attended July Meeting

**Membership details** Still receiving a few membership renewals.

Meeting closed 8.30pm

## Gronn St National Tree Day – Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July

By Phillip Orth

A large group of Friends and locals gathered together to help Michelle, David and Todd from the Darebin Council plant a fair range of acacias and River red gums along the Darebin Creek near Gronn St Reservoir.

This area had been planted along in successive years and it was very interesting to see the growth patterns of previous years. With the rain last years planting had almost rivalled the growth of plantings from three years ago...

With the number of volunteers for the day it was certainly a case of “many hands make light work” and quite a long stretch was completed full with new plants. Certainly almost double the result of previous years!!!

We even spied a family of Swans and their cygnets on the day swimming around in the creek!!

Michelle from the bush crew had mainly chosen acacias on the day for planting, as they had been so successful in previous years. The full list of plants for the day were:

*Eucalyptus camaldulensis* River Redgum

*Acacia verticillata* “Prickly Moses”, *Acacia implexa* “Lightwood”

*Acacia acinacea* “Gold Dust Wattle”, *Acacia mearnsi* “Black Wattle”

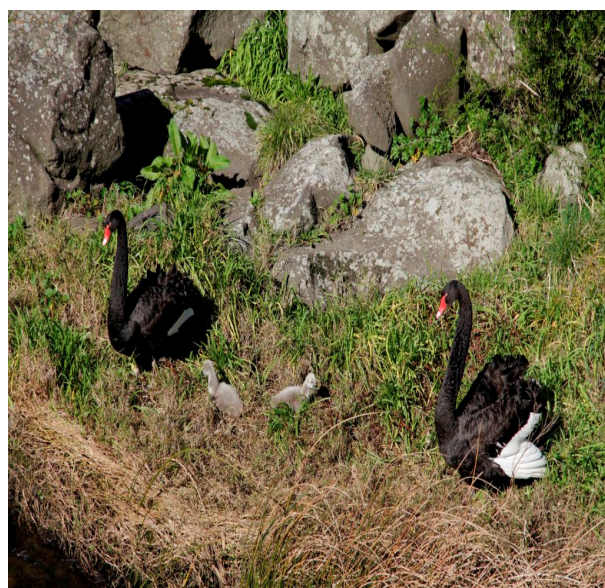
*Acacia melanoxylon* “Blackwood”, *Acacia paradoxa* “Kangaroo thorn”

*Acacia pycnantha* “Golden Wattle”, *Acacia retinodes* “Swamp Wattle”

Of course after a very successful planting day – Michelle had a suitably nourishing coffee, tea, biscuits and fruitcakes available – yummy!!



The planting went very well



Voila!! Swan family on the Darebin

## Planting Day on Hendersons Creek Epping Sunday 28 August

Under sunny skies, Friends participated in a planting day on Hendersons Creek, just south of McDonalds Road in Epping. Hendersons Creek is a tributary of the Darebin Creek, which starts just north of Mill Park Lakes Wetlands and joins the Darebin Creek near Childs Road.

Thanks to a grant from Melbourne Water, Darebin Creek Management Committee was able to purchase hundreds of native plants. Due to the fact that Melbourne Water manages the land, DCMC and Friends were able to direct this planting day.

A week earlier DCMC staff conducted a letterbox drop advertising the planting day to the local community. Funds from Melbourne Water allowed for a sausage sizzle to entice some locals to participate in the planting day. Around 25 people, including five local families and a good number of Friends, were involved in the planting day.

Trees and shrubs planted included Lightwood (*Acacia implexa*), Black She-oak (*Allocasuarina littoralis*), River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*), Manna Gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*), Prickly Moses (*Acacia verticillata*), River Bottlebrush (*Callistemon sieberi*), Rock Correa (*Correa glabra*), Hop Goodenia (*Goodenia ovata*), Hemp Bush (*Gynatrix pulchella*), Tree Violet (*Hymenanthera dentata*), Hazel Pomaderris (*Pomaderris aspera*), Large Kangaroo Apple (*Solanum laciniatum*).

Grasses that were planted included Bristly Wallaby-grass (*Danthonia setacea*) and Common tussock-grass (*Poa labillardieri*). Lilies and daisies planted included Black-anther Flax-lily (*Dianella revoluta*), Kidney-weed (*Dichondra repens*), Purple Coral-pea (*Hardenbergia violacea*), and Running Postman (*Kennedia prostrata*).

If Friends have a spare weekend next year, this could be a good spot for a follow-up handweeding day. It was great having so many local community members helping planting, as they can keep an eye on the plants as they grow. One family wanted more plants to put in after we packed up and they also said they would try to do a bit of handweeding in the area.

- Peter Grenfell



Eucalypts along the riverbank



Everyone helping out with the planting



Adrian digs the holes to make it easier!!



A few locals help Sheryl plant!!!

## Report of Darebin Yarra Link meeting with Parks Victoria Monday 29<sup>th</sup> August.

By Robert Keystone.

The following were the main points to come out of a meeting regarding the linking of the Darebin Trail with the Main Yarra Trail of interested community groups with Parks Victoria held at Darebin Parklands environment centre on 29/8/11.

The south end of Darebin Trail currently ends at a tree just N of Heidelberg Road on the Ivanhoe side of Darebin Creek. The proposed future trail would go from there for 1.8km to connect with the Main Yarra Trail in Kew at the underpass near Hyde Park and a side trail to connect to Farm Road.

Parks Victoria has split the project into three stages which are :

Stage 1 is from the tree just N of Heidelberg Road to the south end of Sparks Reserve,

Stage 2 is from the south end of Sparks Reserve to the Main Yarra Trail and

Stage 3 is the side trail from just N of Napier Waller Reserve on the Alphington side of Darebin Creek to Farm Road.

**Stage 1** goes through land owned by Banyule City Council. The stage has been fully designed and is fully funded by council and Parks Victoria with Parks Victoria to fund any excess costs incurred. Most of the Sparks Reserve section of the trail has been built. The low bridge over the edge of Darebin Creek under Heidelberg Road should be completed this financial year. It is expected to be built in the summer when the flow of water in Darebin Creek is at a lower level.

**Stage 2** goes along the City of Yarra side of Darebin Creek except for a small section through Napier Waller Reserve which is on the Banyule City Council side of the creek, through the Latrobe Golf Club near Darebin Creek and the Yarra River, across the Yarra River and through The Kew Billabong which is owned by Boroondara City Council.

Drawings have been done for stage 2 and they are under review at the present time with three weeks of consultation to go but they are yet to be costed. The meeting was shown a fancy design for the bridge over the Yarra River. There was discussion about the bridge surface, the lack of line markings, the proposed viewing spots on the bridge & their lack of delineation from the trail, whether the side steps on the Kew side are required, whether the open girder structure under the bridge would act as a debris trap & put pressure on the bridge in times of flood and how aware the designers are that the primary purpose of the bridge is to be a through cycling / walking trail. It is hoped that Stage 2 will be fully designed by Feb 2012, all going well.

Stage 2 needs to be started by June 2012 or the planning permits for the trail will need to be extended. There is a separate planning permit with each of the three councils which were combined in a VCAT decision on the project. Boroondara City Council objected to the original permit and may do so again primarily over their concerns of the trail's path through the billabong.

The DSE assisted by Parks Victoria are still to negotiate land acquisition with the major landholders being Alphington Grammar, Latrobe Golf Club and Boroondara City Council. The school and the golf club have agreed in principle to their land being acquired if done so by June 2013. Funding for the land acquisition is OK but the logistics are still to be worked through.

Stage 2 has still to be funded so there was no commitment to a completion date. It is hoped that the state government will provide all or the bulk of the money.

**Stage 3** is the side trail from the proposed Darebin Trail just N of Napier Waller Reserve to Farm Road in a crescent shape close to the back of Lucerne Crescent. The land is currently owned by Alphington Grammar and Latrobe Golf Club. The golf club wants a closed fence along the section of trail next to their land which is a practice range whereas the local Alphington residents wish to still have access to Darebin Creek through the golf club land. The other issue was the steepness of the trail at the south end near Farm Road. Parks Victoria showed the meeting two proposals for the trail, one with the trail straight & steep and another with a more contoured zig-zag path. The meeting pushed for the gentler gradient option to be the favoured outcome. It seems local Alphington residents want the steeper option on visual grounds. Stage 3 has been fully designed but not costed or funded.

Another issue that was brought up at the meeting was the 1m gap in the current Darebin Trail south of the railway bridge on the Darebin side of the creek. It seems that a contractor dug up the trail to lay a pipe and went bankrupt before restoring the trail. At the time of the meeting it was still to be determined who would fund the restoration of the trail but hoped to be fixed sooner rather than later. [ Coincidence or not, a council worker was seen in Darebin Parklands early on 1/9/11 and when asked about the gap, he said he was there to fix it that day ]

As the funding for the completion of the Darebin Yarra Link is not assured interested people are urged to keep agitating for the trail to be built. This can be done by going to [www.darebinarralink.org](http://www.darebinarralink.org) and Darebin Parklands is having an open day on Sunday November 13.

The next meeting of the Community Coalition will be held on Monday 17/10/11.

## Previous Plantings FLASHBACK

**Dunne Street 2010!!! This was a barren grassy slope!! Well done everyone.**



## **Get Involved in Darebin Creek Events in 2011 ☺**

- September 25<sup>th</sup> cut and paint woody weeds, Bundoora Park Grasslands.
- October 30<sup>th</sup> – Hand weed Electric Spur, Heidelberg
- Nov 17<sup>th</sup> - Meeting DCMC Environment centre 7pm
- Xmas party – likely to be around 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> December - TBC

Got anything to say? Contributions to the FODC newsletter always welcome. Please forward to [fodc.articles@dcmc.org.au](mailto:fodc.articles@dcmc.org.au) or [philorth@iprimus.com.au](mailto:philorth@iprimus.com.au)

## **Contact Numbers**

Convenor/ Membership Officer	Sheryl Sibbison	9467 1370 (h)	<b>Water Pollution? (quote drain sign's number)</b> Melb Wildlife Sanctuary & Indigenous Nursery	<b>9695 2777</b> 9479 1206
			Shopping Trolley Hotline	1800 245 022

Adrian Hotchin	Events	0409 133 049	Litter Report Hotline	1800 352 555
Phillip Orth	Newsletter	0419376244	<b>Wildlife Rescue Hotline</b>	<b>0500 540 000</b>
<b>Darebin Creek Management Committee</b>		9499 4454	<b>Vic Police Motorcycle Squad</b>	<b>9380 7283</b>

NOTE: The Friends of Darebin Creek **Membership Brochure** comes complete with map and information in seven languages. Call Sheryl (tel no above) for copies to distribute to neighbours, schools and clubs, and other centres.

**Visit our website at [www.friendsofdarebincreek.org.au](http://www.friendsofdarebincreek.org.au)**