



Friends of Darebin Creek

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

Upcoming events

- November 29: Clarendon St entrance weeding and litter clean-up
- December 4: End-of-year celebration, Furlan Club

Don't forget to check out our **Facebook page**. Like and share our page to spread the word about FODC!

<https://www.facebook.com/friendsofdarebin creek>

Planting at Bell Street South

16 August

On a mainly sunny day, 38 Friends of Darebin Creek and local volunteers with organisation from three Darebin Bush Crew members planted 550 plants at the Bell Street South site near Darebin Creek. The high turnout of both members and local residents – especially the high number of children present, was very encouraging.



The Bell Street South area was badly scarred by a deliberately lit fire on a 42°C total fire ban day in February 2014, 18 months ago. With much good work post the fire from the Banyule Bush Crew and many volunteers, the burnt area and surrounds have been extensively cleaned up and mulched. 1827 plants have been planted over two community working bees in June and this one in August, along with some planting by Corrections Victoria.

The main species planted during this working bee were Common Tussock Grass – *Poa lab*, Spiny-headed Mat-Rush – *Lomandra longifolia*, Spreading Flax-lily – *Dianella admixta*, Hop Goodenia – *Goodenia ovata*, Sticky Boobiella – *Myoporum petiolatum* and Yarra Burgan – *Kunzea leptospermoides*.

The cuppa, biscuits and snacks went down well at the end of the event. Thanks to the FODC members who came along and for the support of the Banyule Bushcrew.



Robert Key Stone

Powerful Owls

Speakers Friends of Darebin Creek Meeting, 19 August

Isaac and Nick Bradshaw gave a very informative talk about owls in Sydney and Melbourne in particular the Powerful Owl and the Melbourne Powerful Owl Project.

They discussed how the owl has adapted to changes in the environment. The owls can be 60 cm tall and have a wingspan of nearly 140 cm. The owl requires a large territory to feed and large tree hollows to breed. They require a lot of prey and are susceptible to bioaccumulation of chemicals found in their prey.

Further information can be obtained from the website below:

<http://birdlife.org.au/projects/powerful-owl-project/melbourne-powerful-owl-project>

A data sheet can be downloaded from the website if you are interested.

Creek-side planting behind Green Street, Ivanhoe

August 30 2015

Local residents have been the recipients of a Melbourne Water grant for the past few years. There has been a massive improvement in native vegetation along this area of the creek because of the great job they have done planting, weeding and watering throughout the year and it is always a pleasure to be involved. There was a good mix of locals and friends group members and the weather was just right for getting stuck into the task.

Trays of tube stock were set out along the creek-side in designated areas, while sections were cleared of various weeds – see one of the piles of weeds below.



As more native vegetation becomes established the need for intensive weeding will be reduced.

Michelle made sure our work was rewarded with a spectacular spread for morning tea, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Ride the Banyule Boundary

On Sunday 20 September a group of bike riders rode the Banyule Boundary along the Darebin Creek, in perfect spring conditions, as part of the Spring Outdoors Program. Before the ride commenced an inspection of nest boxes around the Darebin Environment Centre showed participants a number of rainbow lorikeet chicks.

The ride was led by Adrian Infanti and Therese Grinter from DCMC, taking in the views and stopping at significant places along the way including Dundas Street Wetlands, Northland and La Trobe Wetlands.

A number of environmental and planning issues were discussed along the way, including the drain labelling project, building encroachments and snakes!

The 15-kilometre return ride was an easy and enjoyable ride, even for me who hadn't ridden for several years. Thanks to everyone who participated.

Therese Grinter



Wild flower planting at Nicola Davis Reserve, South Morang

September 27

It was a lovely sunny morning at the reserve, which is a fine example of native grasslands existing in the north. Being school holidays a few of our regulars had other commitments, but as 10 am approached our numbers increased pleasingly. Shirley and Rosie were soon joined by Sheryl, Trevor, Michael and Paul. Robert arrived, taking a 100-minute bike ride to attend, and even more impressive when you consider the 100-minute return trip after a couple of hours of planting.

It looked like an all-FODC affair until a minibus load of 10 Conservation Volunteers arrived to swell the work group numbers. It was interesting to hear the background stories from people from various parts of Melbourne, and some international.

Our tasks included attaching and pegging 'chicken wire' to the fence bordering the primary school and the reserve to reduce the litter being blown in to the reserve.

As the bushcrew obligingly drilled hundreds of holes in the area, we planted many native wildflower.

Paul did an amazing 'St. Bernard-like' water boy job making multiple trips across the field with the single bucket delivering essential water into the parched soil surrounding the freshly planted natives.

The diversity of native plants in this reserve is quite impressive. Check out the following list that Robert identified, including pre-existing plants he sighted as well as those planted on the day.

A satisfying morning topped off with morning tea supplied by the bush crew and even a gifted tube stock for those who have space for them in their garden. Many thanks to all who attended.



Trevor Sibbison

Planting at Lakes Nature Reserve

27 September

The plant species planted were:

Family	Common name	Scientific name
Daisy	Lemon Beauty-heads	<i>Calocephalus citreus</i>
Daisy	Milky Beauty-heads	<i>Calocephalus lacteus</i>
Daisy	Common Everlasting	<i>Chrysocephalum apiculatum</i>
Daisy	Clustered Everlasting	<i>Chrysocephalum semipapposum</i>
Daisy	Yam Daisy (Basalt Form)	<i>Microseris lanceolata</i>
Daisy	Basalt Podolepis	<i>Podolepis sp. 1</i>
Daisy	Common New Holland Daisy	<i>Vittadinia cuneata</i>
Bindweed	Australian Bindweed	<i>Convolvulus angustissimus</i>
Pea	Creeping Bossiaea	<i>Bossiaea prostrata</i>
Pea	Running Postman	<i>Kennedia prostrata</i>
Raspwort	Common Raspwort	<i>Gonocarpus tetragynus</i>
Flax	Native Flax	<i>Linum marginale</i>

Note: The New Holland Daisy, Bindweed and Running Postman were not planted by FODC members.

Plant species seen at Lakes Reserve were:

Family	Common name	Scientific name
Carrot	Prickfoot	<i>Eryngium vesiculosum</i>
Daisy	Cotton Fireweed (b)	<i>Senecio quadridentatus</i>
Sundew	Scented Sundew	<i>Drosera aberrans</i>
Sundew	Tall Sundew (f)	<i>Drosera auriculata</i>
Lily	Chocolate Lily (f+b)	<i>Arthropodium strictum</i>
Grass	Kangaroo Grass	<i>Themida triandra</i>
Speedwell	Slender Speedwell (f)	<i>Veronica gracilis</i>
Rose	Sheep's Burr (f)	<i>Acaena echinata or ovina</i>
Woodruff	Common Woodruff (f)	<i>Asperula conferta</i>

Robert Key Stone

Contacts

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Sheryl Sibbison: Secretary/Memberships	9467 1370
Darebin Creek Management Committee	9499 4454
Water Pollution (quote drain sign number)	9695 2777
Shopping Trolley Hotline	1800 245 022
Wildlife Rescue	0500 540 000
Victoria Police Motorcycle Squad	9380 7283

Contact Friends of Darebin Creek

Email: friendsofdarebincreek@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.friendsofdarebincreek.org.au>

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/friendsofdarebincreek>