



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

25 September: Bushcare's Major Day Out, Napier Waller Reserve

October 16: Pollinators Walk, Quarry Hills, South Morang

October 23: Native Bird Week, Granite Hills Walk

October 30: Gooch Street shared pathway planting

November 27: Collecting native seeds, South Morang

December 9: Christmas break-up celebration

Facebook update

We have reached an amazing 500 likes on Facebook! Come join the Friends of Darebin Creek Facebook if you haven't already, and thanks to those who have shared the page. Keep it up and get the word out!

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



September Newsletter Committee Report

Dear Friends,

We have had lots of plantings over the past few months (see the following articles) and are very pleased to say that the number of people attending these events have increased.

Our committee, however, is gradually dwindling. Phillip moved overseas almost two years ago, Maureen moved to a different area last year, and Helen, who has been on the committee for over 15 years, is relocating at the end of the year.

We would like some new people to join the committee. Our major positions can be covered, but we are in need of more general committee members. If you are interested, send us an email or speak to someone at one of our plantings or other events. We would love to have you join us in our great work caring for the creek.

We'd also like to take the opportunity to highlight the significant contributions some of our newer Friends members have made in caring for the creek.

Sarah Jeffereys joined the Friends group last year and has started up her own group 'Darebin Creek Sweepers', cleaning up a selected site on the creek on the third Sunday of each month. Many loads of litter are removed each time and the creek is looking so much better after only about six months. Great work, Sarah and team!

David Payne joined our group this year and has started Waterwatch training. He will be regularly testing an area of the creek in Reservoir. This is great, as in the whole length of the Darebin Creek, the only Waterwatch testing is done at the Darebin Parklands by Darebin Creek Management Committee (DCMC).

We are looking forward to seeing some water quality results in the newsletters. David has also commenced the Habitat Conservation and Management Course at Latrobe University, which is run by Greening Australia.

We were inspired at our August Committee meeting, after listening to speaker Robert Bender from 'Friends of Wilson Reserve'.

Thanks to everyone who has been able to participate.

Want to join the committee?

If you're interested in becoming a committee member, please contact us.

Email: friendsofdarebincreek@gmail.com

World Environment Day

Woodland Waters native pea species planting

Sheryl, Trevor, Robert, Adrian, David, a local Scout group, Jasmine and a few other locals worked on the planting.



On a beautiful World Environment Day, a small band of planters arrived to revegetate the Woodland Waters Reserve. The reserve is a few hectares in size and is surrounded by development on three sides and open land above where the Friends have attended planting days previously.

The session began with a demonstration of planting technique and an orientation to the site where we saw a two- or three-year old planting of *Acacia pycnantha* – the golden wattle, which was growing well lower down the slope. Across much of the rising ground was what looked like *Eucalyptus leucoxylon* – over the western side was the planting area. Many holes had been dug by Alex and the Council bush crew with a petrol auger in time for a good soaking by the rains of days before.

The crew from Whittlesea Council then delivered the plants. Now we all love native pea species, right! Well these were beauties. They included:

- *Pultenea pedunculata* – Matted Bush Pea
- *Desmodium varians* – Slender Tick Trefoil
- *Glycine tabacina* – Variable Glycine
- *Hovea sp.* – Hovea
- *Indigophera australis* – Australian Indigo



The planting went well in ideal conditions. Guarding followed, which took a bit longer and needed some dedication. Refreshments in the mid-point were welcome and maintained the energy levels, and when all was done we left behind a bold plant selection in a very scenic reserve. Many thanks to the Whittlesea Council and bush crew for an excellent event.

Adrian Hotchin, President FoDC

Green St weeding and planting

26 June 2016

We worked on a new area today, which is continuing the revegetation upstream. This area was very heavily infested with weeds. Two sections with kikuyu and onion weed, the other section mostly with *Tradescantia*. This had been sprayed a few weeks earlier.



Helen and Michelle have done a good job clearing the weeds

The kikuyu still proved most difficult to work with. Several members had quite a workout trying to dig this up ready for planting. It is the first time I have encountered this grass on the Banyule side of the creek. I have since got advice from a member of the Banyule Bush Crew that it is best to have a second spray to deal with this grass.



So much onion weed



In spite of the challenges the Friends helped put in a large number of tube stock. The main species – grass, *chloris truncata*, *Austrostipa elegantissima*, *poa sieberiana* and fairly dense planting of small prickly wattles, *acacia genistifolia* and *acacia brownii*. My intention is to try and create habitat for small birds.

After all the hard work we enjoyed cups of hot drinks and snacks. Again thank you for coming to help, we really appreciate it.

Michelle Morris, local resident and Friends member

Planting days

Banyule Scout Hall planting

10 July 2016

On a cool Sunday morning, a sizeable group of FoDC volunteers, ably organised by Sam the Bush Crew Ranger, managed to plant the grand total of 596 plants – predominantly *Lomandra longifolia*, *Vittadinia muelleri* and *Correa reflexa*, among others. The area we planted, just north of Bell St, stretches between the old Scout Hall, which was sold two years ago and is currently being renovated, and the group of houses along Liberty Parade, beginning with the residence of the Willey family, all of whom helped out on the day – Stephanie, Ben, and children Ethan and Fraser. Michael showed his style digging holes with the auger, as the ground was too hard for the Hamilton planters.

As usual, we finished our hard work with a delicious and well-earned morning tea.



Helen Walker-Cook

Helen hard at work

Olympic Park planting

14 August 2016

What a perfect morning to head out to plant and improve the understorey of garden beds over the creek from Northland. We had 17 people helping plant about 876 plants.

Five years ago this area was heavily overgrown with weeds. Samantha and other Banyule Bush Crew members have worked persistently over this time with weed control.

It was very easy planting as most of the holes had been drilled out, but the soil was very easy to dig with a light covering of wood chip and good leaf litter cover. We planted hardy plants like 168 *Goodenia ovata*, 378 *Lomandra longifolia*, 216 *Dianella admixta*, 54 *Correa glabra*, 54 *Indigofera australis* and 6 *Eucalyptus camadulensis* – river red gums.

Samantha and Tom put on a BBQ, which ended the morning well.

Sheryl Sibbison



A satisfying morning's work



Banyule Northern Grasslands Reserve Planting

28 August 2016

The Friends of Darebin Creek, with the assistance of Sam from the Banyule Bushland Management Unit, continued their effort in helping to regenerate the Banyule Northern Grasslands Reserve.

Twenty-seven keen community members turned up on a warm Sunday morning to plant indigenous grasses into a newly built rabbit-proof fenced area on the southern plateau of the grasslands. With 27 volunteers on hand, the work was done in a record amount of time even though the rocky, hard, basalt earth was difficult to plant into. Four-hundred cells of *Themeda triandra* (Kangaroo Grass), 80 cells of *Stipa semibarbata* (Bearded Spear Grass) and 150 *Brachyscome basaltica* (Basalt daisy) were planted.



The group then went for a walk through the grasslands to look at plantings done in previous years and discussed the large task at hand when regenerating such a large area!

Trevor kept an eye on the kettle and we were all rewarded with hot cups of tea/coffee and chocolate biscuits at the end of the morning.

Thanks guys,

Samantha Forbes, Banyule Bush Crew



News from the Darebin Creek Management Committee (DCMC) Coordination Division

Trolley Muster

This year's Trolley Muster took place on Thursday 19 May, and involved staff from DCMC, Darebin Bush Crew and Banyule Bush Crew. As has been the trend over the last few years, there were a small number of shopping trolleys (13) and a number of dumped motorbikes (4) – mainly red 'Postie' bikes.

A large dumping was found near the La Trobe bridge, consisting of a full trailer load of rubbish – including the trailer. This was reported to Melbourne Water, who cleaned it up.



Todd pulls out one of the weirdest things from the creek



Therese and Katy pull a trolley out of the creek

Peter Grenfell

Nest boxes up the creek

Coordination staff recently checked and maintained our 80-odd nest boxes upstream. Along with heaps of brushtails and ringtail possums, four nest boxes were found to be housing sugar gliders, including one nest box with three sugar gliders inside. Brushtail possums in nest boxes tend to defend their territory, ringtails curl up and hide, while sugar gliders scamper, incredibly quickly, to the top of the tree. We are hoping to construct some more nest boxes – possibly with Friends of Darebin Creek, in the near future to replace old, crumbling nest boxes as well as adding additional ones.

Peter Grenfell, DCMC Project Officer info@dcmc.org.au

Darebin Creek Sweepers

The Darebin Creek Sweepers have been meeting on the third Sunday of every month for an hour or two to remove litter from around the creek. They've been chipping away at it since March and have removed over half a tonne of litter so far!



The next clean-up is on Sunday 18 September at 10.30 am. Join us!

The location is to be confirmed – please check Facebook or join our mailing list by contacting Sarah Jefferyes.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/196916094042042/>

sarahjefferyes@gmail.com



Contacts

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Sheryl Sibbison: Membership Secretary/Treasurer	9467 1370
Helen Walker-Cook: Secretary	0421 730 754
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>