



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

- April 18: Committee Meeting, Darebin Parklands Environment Centre, 7pm
- April 29: Thornbury Bush Plots Planting, Clarendon St Thornbury, 10am
- May 27: Banyule Northern Grasslands Reserve Planting, Cnr Dougharty Rd and Liberty Pde, Heidelberg West, 10am
- June 3: Community Planting, Composites Conservation Reserve, Doreen, TBA
- June 17: Green St Planting and Weeding, Green St, Ivanhoe, 10am
- June 20: Committee Meeting, Darebin Parklands Environment Centre, 7pm
- June 24: Olympic Park Planting and Maintenance, Olympic Park, Heidelberg West, 10am

## 2018 membership renewals

It's not too late to renew your 2018 membership! Thank you to those who have already done so – we look forward to another great year down at the creek, for full details of upcoming events check out [www.friendsofdarebincreek.org.au/calendar](http://www.friendsofdarebincreek.org.au/calendar), and on  Facebook and  Instagram.

Thank you to everyone who renewed their membership and this year we would like to welcome nine new members to the group. We have one new Life membership and two corporate members.

Practical Ecology Pty Ltd have supported the group for nearly 20 years.

Greenamotive is a new corporate member this year.

You can still renew your membership by going to our website

[www.friendsofdarebincreek.org.au/get-involved](http://www.friendsofdarebincreek.org.au/get-involved).

Thanks for all your support.

## Friends of Darebin Creek 2018 AGM

**Darebin Parklands Environment Centre, Alphington, 21st February 2018**



Adam Grubb, an edible weeds expert, gave a presentation to a rapt FODC audience at our AGM. Adam was able to locate a number of weeds as we went for a short walk and talked about their ' history, flavour, and their nutritional and medicinal qualities.

He passed around weed leaves for us to try – some of them were a bit bitter at first, but he assured us the

flavours grow on you. Some favourites included purslane, a.k.a. portulaca or pigweed, which was crunchy and apparently very nutritious, angled onion ("spring onion"), and fat hen ("spinach") which had a nutty flavour.

His co-written book "The Weed Forager's Handbook" which he was selling on the night, even has a recipe section at the back including Purslane Yoghurt Dip (a variation on tzatziki) and Prickly Pear Pizza!! You can find Adam's edible weed walks and workshops, and book at [www.eatthatweed.com](http://www.eatthatweed.com).

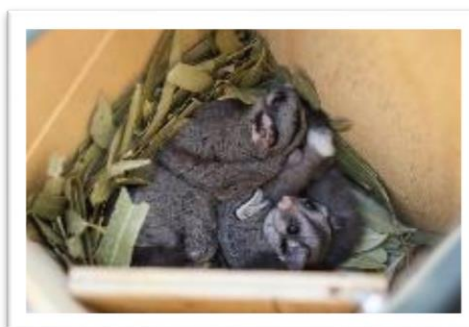
Our AGM followed, and we welcomed in our new president Margaret de Kam. Our former president Adrian Hotchin remains on the committee continuing his role as events coordinator.

**Peter Grenfell**

## Nest Box Construction Workshop

**Darebin Parklands Environment Centre, Alphington, Sunday February 25, 2018**

It was a fun and productive morning building nest boxes to be installed in the Darebin Creek area for the native animals with the Banyule Council Bushland Management Team. We had 14 volunteers come along, eager to create much needed habitat for the Melbourne wildlife. We paired up and followed the instructions, putting all the materials together and we all had a good time doing it.



By the end of morning, the building teams had glued and screwed a good number of prefab kits, working together doing a very rewarding activity. The constructed boxes are suitable for a range of species including the Brush-tailed Phascogale, Sugar Gliders and Ring-tailed Possums just to name a few.

These nest boxes will help supplement the shortage of large tree nesting hollows around the Darebin Creek area.

Thanks to everyone who joined us, and we all look forward to seeing them installed around the creek soon.

**Todd Hunter**



## Clean Up Australia Day

**Southern Rd Wetland, Heidelberg West, 4th March, 2018**

On my journey along the creek it was nice to see several groups all taking part in Clean Up Australia Day. With an 11am start meeting at the Liberty St entrance, we kicked off proceedings with Ranger Sam from Banyule Council Bushland Management Department talking about potential hazards. Some important things to look out for included tripping hazards and snakes, and whilst a needle check had already been done during the week it was still something to be cautious of.



The area of the creek we were concentrating on was from Bell St all the way down to Southern Rd and area's around the Southern Road Wetland. Quite a large area and everyone rose to the challenge with 45 volunteers removing 240kg of rubbish and recyclable items.

Highlight trash finds were the trusty O bike, a child seat, a car starter motor, several sets of keys, and 3 supermarket trolleys amongst plenty



of old clothes, plastic bottles, cans, fast food containers and plastic bags. Some wild life highlights included a Tawny Frogmouth, a Tiger Snake and plenty of ducks and other birds out enjoying the sunny day.



We finished off the day with freshly made sandwiches, home made cookies and a hot cuppa.

A huge thank you to everyone who participated in the day, making a difference and helping the Darebin Creek environment.

**Dave Payne**

## Spotlight Walk

**West Heidelberg 16th March, 2018**

It was a great night hanging out with the Friends and all the animals along the creek on our Spotlight Night walk last Friday in West Heidelberg.

Ranger Tom from the Banyule Council Bushland Department lead one group of 18 people at Dougharty Rd (pictured) and Ranger Sam lead another group of 15 at Gona St. I was in the Gona St group and after an informative brief about the area and safety, we were lead to our first destination... A Tawny Frogmouth nestled high up in a Eucalypt. It was a great start and all the group were very excited by their first sighting.



We headed north along the shared-trail after that and it was evident along the way all the work the bushland crew and community had put into the area. As the dark

set in, the children in our group went exploring with Ranger Sam to see if they could spotlight more animals in the treetops above.

As we eagerly awaited our next sighting, Fruit Bats flew overhead, and a Nankeen Night Heron was spotted taking off from the water. It wasn't long before we saw a Sugar Glider head down from the trees, as it swiftly glided into the brush and dark of night. There were many more sightings including a White-winged Chough and Microbats just to name a few.



**Sam's group:**

- 4 Tawny Frogmouths
- 1 White-faced Heron
- 1 Grey Currawong
- 2 Noisy Mynahs
- 1 Sugar Glider (my first in the wild)

**Tom's group:**

- 2 Sugar gliders
- 1 Tawny Frogmouth
- 1 sleeping Noisy Mynah
- 1 sleeping wattlebird
- 2 Fruit bats
- Several microbats



We would like to thank everyone who came along and especially thank the Banyule Council Bushland Management Department. The Rangers do an amazing job working with the community and FODC, creating and maintaining the habitat along the creek with plantings, nest boxes, weed control and many more activities to conserve the Melbourne bushland.

**Todd Hunter**



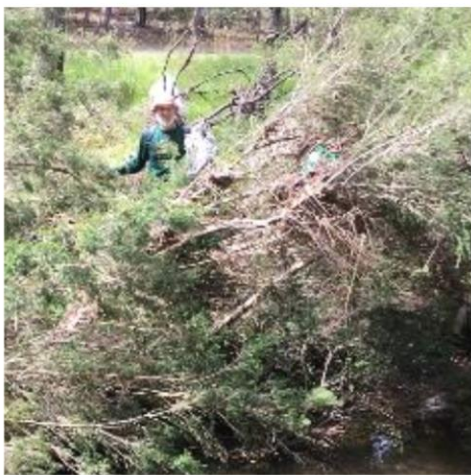
## Darebin Creek Sweepers Needs You!

Darebin Creek Sweepers is back in full swing this year after having a little rest in January. So far, they have swept around the creek in areas near Tyler St Preston, C.T. Barling Reserve Reservoir, and Water St Preston and have done a fantastic job removing rubbish from the creek and surrounds.

This was Sarah's last clean up as she is moving out of Melbourne.

Sarah created the Darebin Creek sweepers two years ago and with a small group of helpers has cleaned up selected areas along the creek the third Sunday of each month.

This has made a huge difference to the amount of litter getting into the creek.



Sarah would love what she started to continue, Paul Prentice has offered to continue events but can't do the Facebook invite side of it.

Sarah is sending a call out to anyone who could take on part or all the project as Paul already coordinates the Merri Creek monthly clean-ups.

We hope someone can take over so that her good work continues. We all thank Sarah for her fantastic work and commitment to helping the environment. Contact us at [friendsofdarebin creek@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofdarebin creek@gmail.com) for more information.

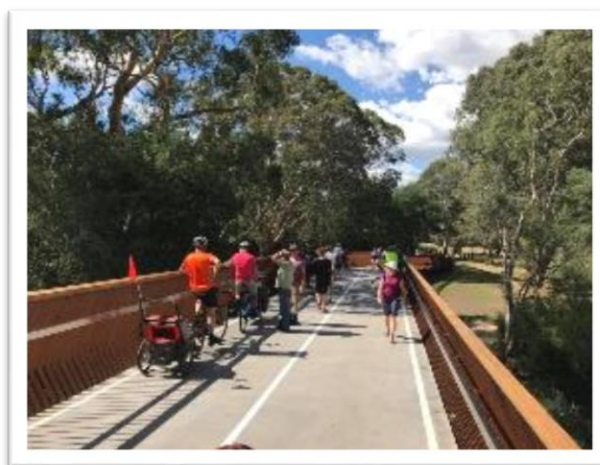


# Darebin Yarra Trail Link Opening

**Darebin Creek Trail, 25th March, Ivanhoe 2018**



The Darebin Yarra Trail Link is officially open! This section of trail now connects to the larger network of trails and was an important missing link for a long time. We would like to thank everyone involved with campaigning over the last 25 years to make this momentous occasion possible. We hope you enjoy the photos and we see you along the creek and trail soon!





## Green Street Greening the Creek

A big shout out and thank you to the Green St Revegetation Group in Ivanhoe. The community of residents there are dedicated to protecting and improving the Darebin Creek and their efforts are truly inspirational. The group consists of 12 adjoining properties whose backyards are on the Darebin creek. They have secured a Melbourne Water grant for the past eight years, to help revegetate and improve their section.

The groups dedication to the Darebin Creek Corridor has not gone unnoticed both visually and by Melbourne Water. They were awards finalists in the Melbourne Water River Health Incentive Stream Program. They came third in the private landholder award category and there were 57 entries across four categories. The visual and environmental result is a healthier habitat which is a haven for native birds and animals, as well as a welcome green-belt for local residents. Kookaburras, magpies, currawongs, parrots, frogmouths, ducks, wattle birds, pardalotes and wrens are amongst the birds now regularly sighted and a variety of lizards and insects find shelter in the new habitat too. For the first time in over 20 years, the Eastern Froglet has been heard in this section of the creek as well! You don't need to own a property there to enjoy this part of the creek though as there is an overlay on the titles and people can walk along the bank. The FODC has worked together with the group over the years maintaining the creek corridor and we look forward to continuing to build this relationship and create positive change in our community.



### Todd Hunter





## Contacts

Margaret de Kam: President

Adrian Hotchin: Events 0409 133 049

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

EPA 1300 372 842

### Contact Friends of Darebin Creek

Email: [friendsofdarebincreek@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofdarebincreek@gmail.com)

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

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