

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

- June 18: Green St planting and weeding, Ivanhoe 10am
- June 21: Committee Meeting, Darebin Parklands Environment Centre, 7pm
- June 25: Southern Rd Wetland planting, 10am
- July 9: Banyule Northern Grassland Reserve Planting, 10am
- July 30: National Tree Day planting, Reservoir and Mernda, 10am
- August 13: Olympic Park Precinct planting, 10am
- August 16: Committee Meeting, Darebin Parklands Environment Centre, 7pm
- August 27: Banyule Northern Grassland Reserve planting, 10am

FoDC website back up and running!

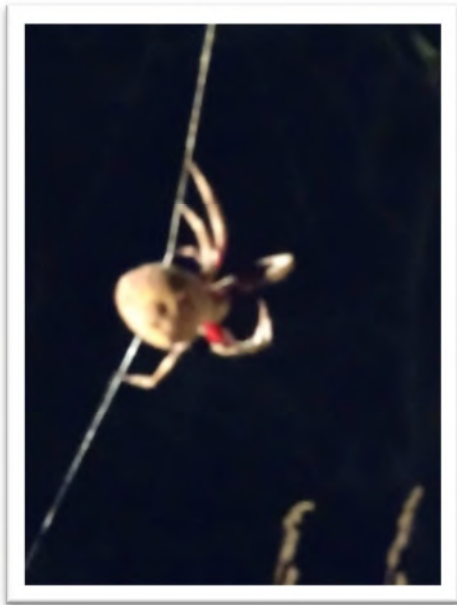
After some minor migration issues our website is all back up and running smoothly. Check us out at friendsofdarebincreek.org.au for links to all our events, past newsletters and membership renewals.

BYO Picnic and spotlight walk

Darebin Parklands Sunday March 26, 2017

Perfect weather and pleasant company. 22 people enjoyed a BYO picnic in the Darebin Parklands before gathering together to start the walk. There was no moonlight but plenty of torches to prevent any problems from tripping on exposed roots and uneven ground.

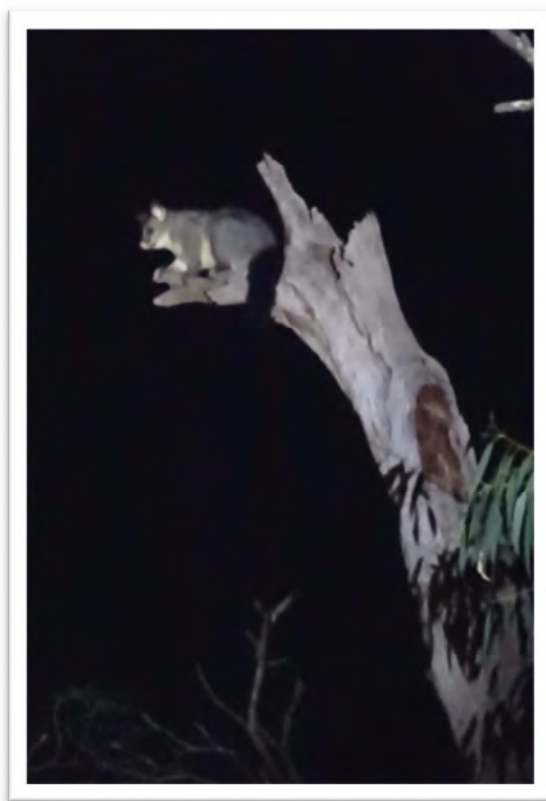




Sightings included a tawny frogmouth, flying foxes flying overhead and microbats flitting about catching insects, several ringtail and brushtail possums, the Night Heron shown, several spiders in their webs, a short finned eel in the creek at the footbridge, as well as plenty of trees and a satellite overhead.

It was great to get out and see the nocturnal fauna in action. Friends will consider having an annual spotlight event – possibly further up the creek next time.

Sheryl Sibbison



Pollution in the creek

April 2017

On the 7th of April, some blue coloured pollutant and a chemical odour was noticed coming from the drain outlet near the Kingsbury Bowls Club and was reported to the EPA thanks to Todd Hunter.



If you notice any pollution or discoloration of water in the creek you can contact EPA on 1300 372 842.

Darebin creek sweepers

April - May, 2017

As usual Sarah and her merry crew of sweepers have been doing an absolute fantastic job around the creek every third Sunday of the month.

Their April clean up behind factories on Quinn St in Preston saw them collect 12 bags filled to the brim of spray cans even after cleaning up 100's the month before. Such a huge haul, check out the photos.



In May, they cleaned up an area in Reservoir around the entrance off Winter Crescent. You can head on over to the Darebin Creek Sweepers Facebook page to see where the next event will be.

Woody weeding in Macleod

Cherry Street Reserve, Sunday 30th April 2017

The Darebin Bush Crew's Maryann and Liam lead the team of 9 volunteers to remove an overabundance of Eucalypts and Acacia saplings.

It sounds like the wrong thing for an environmental group to be removing trees but the area was originally a beautiful open grassy woodland. With urbanisation, increased water runoff and nutrients to the area there has been an overwhelming thick growth of these trees. This is the 4th year we have done this and in the areas previously cleared the grasses and wildflowers are re-establishing.



Our job was to cut the saplings to 1m high and remove the vegetation which we did and stopped after we filled 2 of the crew's high trailers. This allows the bush crews



easy access to come along later and cut to ground level and apply poison.

We're all looking forward to seeing the area later in the year when all the wild flowers will be out and see the rewards of everyone's hard work over the past few years.



We all enjoyed a chat, tea and of course some cake afterwards.

Thanks to Todd from the Darebin Bushcrew for the photo of a wallaby he took there earlier in the week.

Sheryl Sibbison

Reintroducing Flax Lily in Epping

Epping North Conservation Reserve, Sunday 21 May 2017

A small group of volunteers joined the Whittlesea Bushland Crew to plant grasses, shrubs and reintroduce matted Flax Lily to the conservation reserve.

Holes had been pre-drilled to make it a little easier for everyone involved. The tube stock was planted, marked with a stake and tree guards placed around the Flax Lily's to help protect them against rabbits. Eventually there will be about 900 plants added to the area with help from some of the local school groups.

A BIG thank you to everyone who helped on the day and we hope to see you again!



Bush plots planting in Thornbury

Clarendon St Thornbury Sunday 28 May 2017

Friends of Darebin Creek joined together with the City of Darebin Bushcrew for the third time at the Bushplots site in Thornbury. Our aims were to add more diversity to the area and beautify the Clarendon Street Entrance in Thornbury as you come into the reserve.

Despite only having five volunteers and two Bushcrew staff on the day, our spirits weren't dampened, and we had lots of laughs putting the plants in the ground. The weather was predicted to be wet and cold but fortunately the rain held off until we were finished and digging the holes for the plants kept us warm.

We managed to get in over 200 plants in a couple of hours and then we had some coffee and cake to finish. The plant diversity throughout the Bushplots has been boosted with a range of indigenous species. These include the showier wildflowers like cut-leaf daisies, bulbine lilies and Sunrays. We added a few tall grass species too, with the wallaby and spear grasses completing the ground story.

We look forward to continuing our Volunteer days here in the future but to do this we need more support from the community and our social media followers.

Todd Hunter





Green St planting

Sunday 18 June 2017

A great way to spend a beautiful Sunday morning with people all committed to improving the vegetation along the creek. Green Street residents have worked at removing weeds and re vegetating the area along the Darebin Creek behind their properties for a few years. Many of the residents are members of FoDC and it was great that other members of the group could come and help them.

We only had a small amount of weeding to do this time (not like last year, I can still smell that onion weed), before we planted grasses and a few shrubs.

As always, a delicious morning tea was provided and plenty of time to chat and enjoy the scenery.

Thanks Michelle and Chris.



Sheryl Sibbison

Sugar Glider boxes

June 2017

A fresh nest and some scratchings found in our Sugar Glider boxes that we constructed earlier this year.



Thanks for the update Banyule Bushcrew, very exciting and promising news!

Ban the bag!

Petition on Change.org #BanTheBag

Here in Australia we use an estimated 4 to 6 billion plastic bags every year. This equates to 10 million bags per day, sending 7,150 to landfill every minute but around 80 million bags don't make it to landfill and end up in our streams and water ways killing around 100,000 birds and marine life every year.

Single use plastic bags are creating a huge impact on our environment. On average a bag is in use for just 12 minutes yet can take up to 1,000 years to break down. Many countries around the world such as China, Papua New Guinea and The

Netherlands have already banned single use plastic bags but here in Victoria our leaders are yet to take a lead on the issue.

You can head on over to <https://www.change.org/p/ban-plastic-bags-across-nsw-victoria-and-wa> and sign the petition or contact our Premier Daniel Andrews directly on at the following:

Office of the Premier

1 Treasury Place

Melbourne, Victoria 3002

EMAIL: daniel.andrews@parliament.vic.gov.au

PHONE: 03 9651 5000

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/DanielAndrewsMP/>

TWITTER: <https://twitter.com/DanielAndrewsMP>

Other states in Australia have already acted, it's time we demand the same and protect our beautiful waterways and environment here in Victoria.

Dave Payne

Contacts

Adrian Hotchin: President/Events	0409 133 049
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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

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

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