

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

- March 26: BYO Picnic and Spotlight Walk, Darebin Parklands, 7pm
- April 19: Committee Meeting, Darebin Parklands Environment Centre, 7pm
- April 30: Woody weed control, Cherry Street Reserve, Macleod, 10am
- May 21: Community Planting, Epping North Conservation Reserve, 10am
- May 28: Bush Plot Planting, Clarendon Street, Thornbury, 10am
- June 4: Community Planting Elation Conservation Reserve, Doreen, 10am

## 2017 membership renewals

It's not too late to renew your 2017 membership! Thank you to those who have already done so – we look forward to another great year down at the creek.

## Platypus Sighting in the creek!

**Monday 6th February, 2017**

Some big news for the creek! Banyule's Bushland team observed a platypus swimming in the Darebin Creek around midday on 6th February, between Southern and Plenty Roads. They watched it for a few minutes before Tom Crawshaw grabbed his camera and took a couple of great photos. Quite a remarkable discovery as it is a long way from the Yarra River, where Platypus are known to breed. They spotted a platypus again on the following Friday; a few kilometres south of last Monday's sighting. It spent a 20 minutes foraging on the banks of the creek.



## Sugar Glider Nest Box Construction Workshop

**Darebin Parklands Environment Centre, Alphington, 12th February 2017**

February 12th 16 volunteers joined in to build the boxes to be installed around Banyule Northern Grassland Reserve care of the Banyule City Bush Crew.

The ready cut flat packs were straight forward but still required careful checking of the prebuilt example. You could tell who hadn't used cordless drills before and getting the correct amount of glue was tricky, did get a bit gooey.

Adults and children alike had a good time. Completed boxes were proudly displayed at the end.

The Sugar Glider boxes had a design with a small entrance hole with the inclusion of an internal safety baffle to prevent predator from reaching the animal.

Tom Crawshaw from the Banyule Bushland team had some enlargements of photos he had taken along the creek, including a photo of the second sighting of a Platypus. Great photos Tom.

Well done everyone and thanks to Sam, Tom and Jim for their guidance.



**Sheryl Sibbison, Friends of Darebin Creek**

## Friends of Darebin Creek 2017 AGM

**Wednesday February 15, 2017**

At the AGM we accepted a few new members to the group and Paul Prentice took up a Life Membership. We now have 11 Life Members. Well done to all of you for the great work you've done along the creek!

Committee elections were held and Adrian Hotchin was elected President and Events Coordinator, Sheryl Sibbison as Treasurer and Memberships, Peter Grenfell as Secretary, Todd Hunter as Social Media Liaison, and David Payne as the Newsletter Coordinator. Thanks heaps to all who put their hand up for positions and if anyone is interested or able, we could do with a Festivals and Promotions Organiser, or just for more members to come along to our meetings.

We had a lot of great ideas come out during a Facebook / online promotion discussion. A suggestion by Todd was to trial a small budget for promoting events on

Facebook. Alex Bhathal suggested we could utilise Twitter or Instagram to promote Friends. Also, rewards and competitions on Facebook were discussed.

Friends postal address has now changed. We will now share with Darebin Creek Management Committee (PO Box 5093, Alphington 3078).

Our guest speaker for the evening was Benedict Hughes, a local beekeeper who also conducts beekeeping courses and keeps a number of hives at the Darebin Parklands.

Benedict touched on a lot of interesting issues facing bees. For instance, high 2016 spring rains have meant that most local eucalypts have put their energy into growth rather than flowering. Flowering eucalypts is the main source of pollen for local bees, so this lack of flowering has meant that beekeepers have been forced to feed their bees sugar syrup, or similar.

Due to this fact, Benedict has only been able to produce a much smaller batch of honey than usual. He is pictured here with Adrian Hotchin and a couple of jars of his honey.



We couldn't finish the meeting without discussing the platypus that had been photographed in the creek the previous week. Tom Crawshaw and the Banyule Bushcrew had seen and taken photos of the platypus on two occasions in one week. His photos were featured in the Leader and went viral on both the Friends and the Darebin Parklands Association Facebook sites. Obviously, an enormous amount of interest in this shy little critter.

Next meeting will be Wednesday 19 April at the usual spot – the Darebin Parklands Environment Centre (Gleeson Centre building).

**Peter Grenfel,**  
**Darebin Creek Management**  
**Committee**



## Clean Up Australia Day 2017

### **Southern Rd Wetland, Heidelberg West, 5th March, 2017**

We had 11 volunteers helping to clean up the Southern Rd Wetland. Volunteers got stuck into the task even though there was quite a bit of persistent drizzle in the morning. We weighed the haul of litter which came in at 140kg. Not a bad effort by any means!

A juvenile Nankeen Night Heron was seen at the wetland. We had an adult one at the wetland about 12 months ago but it would be impossible to know if they're related!

**Tom Crawshaw,**

**Banyule Bushland team member**



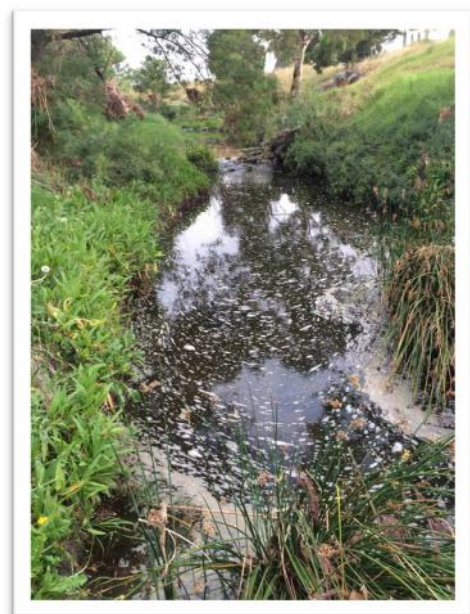
## Pollution in the creek

### **2nd March, 2017**

Darebin Creek was looking particularly foamy on Thursday 2nd of March. The spill was first noticed in the morning around the Latrobe Plains Bridge Reservoir and was tracked all the way upstream to a drain outlet near the Beenak Wetland, Reservoir. The spill was reported to the EPA so let's hope they can find the source.

If you notice any pollution spills please report it to the EPA on 1300 372 842

**Todd Hunter, Friends of Darebin Creek**





## Installation of Sugar Glider Nest Boxes

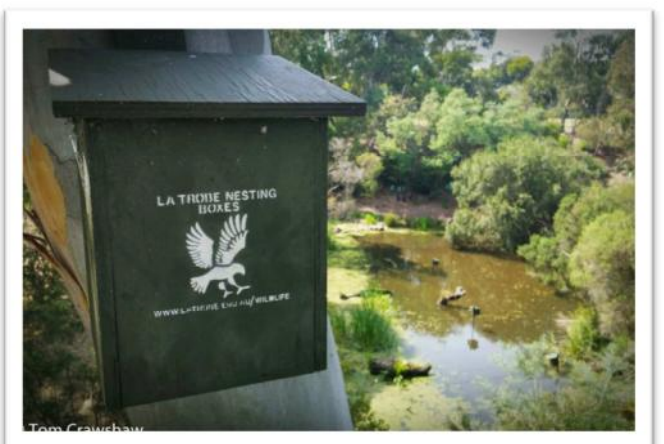
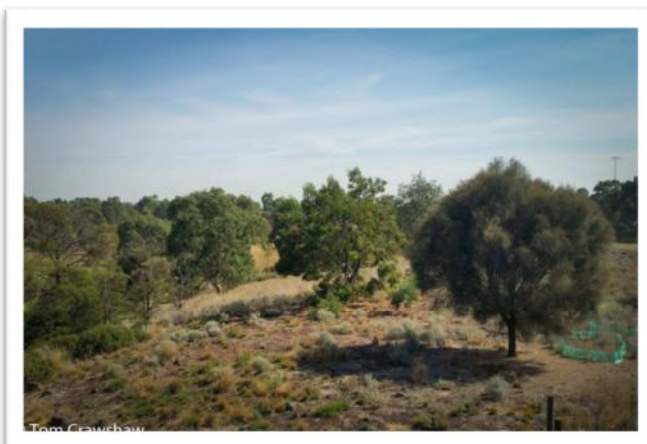
### **Banyule Bushland Team, Banyule Northern Grasslands Reserve southern and central plateaus**

Mid May we installed the sugar glider boxes that the friends group constructed in February. Our task was made somewhat easier with assistance from the tree care crew. We installed them at the Banyule Northern Grasslands Reserve southern and central plateaus.

While we had the tree care crew on hand, we decided to move one of the possum boxes at Southern Road Wetland and managed to get a couple of aerial shots.

We also had a peek inside one of the sugar glider boxes we installed last year and found a well-constructed nest! No sugar gliders present on this particular occasion however.

**Tom Crawshaw, Banyule Bushland team member**



## Darebin Creek Sweepers

Special congratulations to Sarah and the crew for reaching their 1st Birthday! They have done such a terrific job cleaning up the creek and surrounds removing literally a ton of rubbish. Top job!

To find out more check out the Darebin Creek Sweepers Facebook group and click join. Clean-ups are held on the 3rd Sunday every month.



## Contacts

Adrian Hotchin: President/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>