



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

- September 17: Napier Waller Reserve Planting, 10am
- September 24: Weeding Thornbury trail entrances, 10am
- October 15: South Morang Bird Survey, 8 – 10am
- October 18: Committee Meeting, Darebin Parklands Environment Centre, with water bug testing at the creek, 6.30pm
- October 29: Darebin Creek bird survey, Heidelberg West, 8 -10am

End of year is almost here!

We have had a heap of great events this year, planting, weeding, eating, and all other good things getting our hands dirty. Only a few events left in our calendar to get down and active around at the creek before the planting season comes to an end. For full details of upcoming events check out friendsofdarebin.org.au/events, and on  Facebook and  Instagram.

Southern Road Wetlands Planting

Southern Rd Wetlands, Heidelberg West, Sunday 25th June



It was a great morning adding 540 plants to the wetland entrance on the last Sunday of June. It was nice and sunny too and we spotted quite a lot of wildlife around. We planted lots of Yellow Buttons, Lomandras, Austral Stork's-bills, Sheep's Burrs and Cut-leaf Daisies. These species will supplement the growing diversity and add to the amenity of the area.

The planting finished early, so we had a look around the wetland to see the progress from our previous plantings. We were also treated to a look in the nest boxes using a nest box camera and it was a great way to top-off the morning's planting.



We would like to give a BIG THANKS to the 12 volunteers and Banyule Bushcrew for their amazing efforts on the day, building and caring for this precious ecosystem along the Darebin Creek.

Adrian Hotchin

Banyule Northern Grassland Reserve July

Heidelberg West, Sunday 9th July

At the intersection of Doherty Rd and Liberty Pde we lined up Toms directional arrow on the notice board to the Banyule Grassland planting day and set off into the Forest. In a short time, we found the Bushland Crew and their equipment ready to undertake the planting Day.

Samantha had everything under control and soon the materials were being distributed and the sixteen participants were planting, staking and guarding the 350 plants that went in on the day.

Species list

River Red Gums, *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*

Hemp Bush, *Gynatrix pulchella*

Black Wattle, *Acacia mearnsii*

Hedge Wattle, *Acacia paradoxa*





Michael worked the 2-stroke auger to make holes for planting, Sheryl and Trevor team worked many plants into the ground, Tom the six-foot Ranger was quick on his feet to ensure things ran smoothly. Soon the watering was underway and before long the kettle was on and the Morning Tea was underway. But that was not all, later, Sam took us all for a stroll into the Grassland. Here we saw the excellent

Wallaby Grass direct seeding results and the tiny *Desmodium Daemo* discovered when he was Ranging the Grassland.

It was another fantastic day when the Friends of Darebin Creek helped to enhance the Wildlife corridor established not so long ago by the far sighted revegetaters of the 70's. There is lots to do yet and the Friends will be there next time to help in this vital work. See the Website so that you can join in for a day of activities coming up soon.



Adrian Hotchin

National Tree Day 2017

Purivan Rd, Reservoir, Sunday 30th July

National Tree Day 2017 was a nice sunny morning along the Darebin Creek between Purivan Rd and Rathcoun Rd, Reservoir. There was a great turnout by the local community, with 33 volunteers working alongside 4 Darebin City Council Bushcrew in continuing to build the wildlife corridor. All together we planted over 350 indigenous plants and shrubs, focusing on the ground story and mid-story layers to compliment the upper story. This will also add diversity and habitat, and assist the bushcrew with their weed management.



A selection of Australian Native Plants were used which included; the spreading Flax and Pale Lillies (*Dianella admixta*, *D.laevis*), protection providing Kangaroo Apples (*Solanum aviculare*), bird and butterfly attracting Golden Wattles (*Acacia pycnatha*) and Snow Daisy-bush (*Olearia lirata*), to the showy Fine-leaf Desert Cassia (*Senna artemisioides* ssp. *filifolia*). These species and a host of others will give the local wildlife protection and an avenue to move through, provide food resources, rest points for birds and add aesthetically to the area. We would like to thank all of the volunteers and City of Darebin Bushcrew for their amazing efforts on the day and we look forward to seeing the areas progression as the plants grow, filling in the necessary niches.

Todd Hunter



Bell Street South Planting Day

Bell St Sth, Bellfield, Sunday 13th August

The Friends of Darebin Creek and the local Bell St South community turned out in numbers to enjoy one of the last planting opportunities for this season. The site looked great and the planting beds were well mulched thanks to the Dept. of Corrections. The Banyule Bushcrew supplied 1300 plants comprising a variety of shrubs and other plants which will in time form an herbaceous understorey as well.



Species list and numbers

Dianella admixta 486

Lomandra longifolia 324

Pelargonium austral 216

Goodenia ovata 162

Correa reflexa 162



There are many beds across the site, which had some Red Gums already growing well, with busy Bell Street in the background. People began arriving and soon there was plenty of chatter as the plants went in. Many kids came along with their families and there was lots of play and calls of "Look at me" as youngsters rediscovered the joys of climbing trees and getting a good look at the surrounds from a convenient fork high up in the tree trunk.

As the planting neared completion, the smell of fried onions distracted the toilers as the Crew prepared the BBQ lunch. At 12.00 we gathered by the Marquee and enjoyed the old favourite of a snag, vegetarian or otherwise in bread with onion and sauce. We finished lunch with a drink and cake.

This was the second planting on the site and another marvellous Winter morning on the Darebin Creek Wildlife Corridor.

Adrian Hotchin



Banyule Northern Grasslands Reserve August

Heidelberg West, Sunday 27th August

As we arrived at the site this morning the stuff that makes the river flow was falling from the sky but it soon cleared up. The cold morning was perfect for planting, the soil soft and the surrounding trees clean and fresh from the rain, the sign of spring's imminent arrival. About 24 volunteers arrived and the planting commenced. The Banyule bush crew made things very easy having dug the holes with their petrol-powered hole digger, it is worth coming to one of these events just to watch this groovy cadet that is so fast making it quick to plant out the tiny plants from the tubes then slipping the stake into the tree guard and the task is done.



It was amazing to arrive at this barren site and within an hour there were approx 700 trees, bushes, ground covers and scrubs all planted.

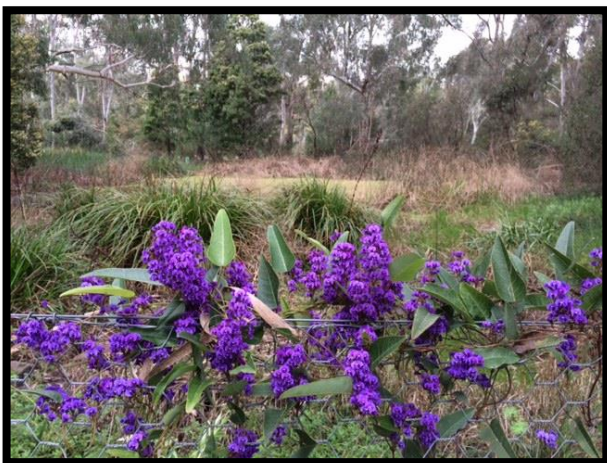
These mornings are very rewarding with great support from the bush crews and an opportunity to work next to other liked minded volunteers all of which concludes with food and drink.

Margaret De Kam



Snap Happy Around the Creek

Got any happy snaps down at Darebin Creek? Email your best through and we'll include some in the next newsletter  friendsofdarebincreek@gmail.com



Contacts

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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

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