NEWS FROM FRIENDS OF DAREBIN CREEK

THE OFFICIAL FRIENDS OF DAREBIN CREEK NEWSLETTER

(1)

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

- October 21: Darebin Creek Bird Survey, Heidelberg West (booked out)
- December 7: End of Year Celebration Dinner, Furlan Club

Friends of Darebin Creek Acknowledges and values the Wurundjeri people of the Greater Kulin Nation as the first people of this land. It commits to assisting to promote, protect and preserve their identity and culture.

National Tree Day Planting

Sunday 29 July

Today's plantings continued along the creek near Gronn Street, Reservoir. There were 44 people, many of them children running around making it hard to get an accurate count but we got there in the end.

These natural, open spaces do that to children, as it invites them to run about and proper free range. The only difference today was that they got to help with the plantings, bringing tree guards, pins and matting to their parents and helping to dig the holes.

The planting session always starts with a thorough introduction by the Darebin Council Bushcrew about how to plant a tree and use all the equipment properly. I spoke with two of the bushcrew members and they said we planted 256 trees, bushes and shrubs.

The species chosen were Golden Sprays, Kangaroo Apples, Tree Violets, Red Boxes, Swamp Gums, Hazel Pomaderris, Tee Trees, Grevilleas, Callistemons and Bottle Brushes. By planting multiple species, it helps to increase species richness and habitat. These plants will grow at different rates and times, flower at different times and will have an array of different coloured flowers. This variance will encourage butterflies and other insects, whereas other species will attract birds and reptiles. Using a variety of species helps with disease resistance and builds resilience in the vegetation community.

In these highly public areas, families, dog walkers, bike riders and those who stroll along will pass by regularly and will have the chance to develop an interest in this evolving landscape. It is always a delight to visit these natural places and meet new people who come along to plant and join in with restoring the bushland.

The newly planted site combined with the older plantings looks healthy and lush, and many thanks to all the volunteers and bushcrew for their efforts today.

Margaret De Kam

(3)

Waller Weekend Planting

Sunday 26 August

We had our biggest community turn out of the year so far, at our Waller Weekend Planting in the Sparks Reserve, Ivanhoe.

There were around 50 adults and children along, ready to plant and hang out by this newly opened section of the creek trail. It's such a nice spot there too, where the creek snakes around the planting area and there's some really nice geology that has been exposed.

The planting was a joint-run day by the Friends of Darebin Creek, Darebin Parklands Association and Darebin Parklands Head Ranger, Peter Wiltshire.

This section of creek, close to the Yarra River Confluence, sees a diverse range of flora and fauna nestled among a collection of mature eucalypts. Ranger Pete explained that the bird diversity at this reserve was a little different from the bird diversity at Darebin Parklands, even though they are only 1km apart. He explained that this can be attributed to the presence of the more mature Eucalyptus trees.

We were there to revegetate the ground story with 1000 plants and provide habitat for the smaller animals that frequent the area. It took just over an hour to get all the plants in, which were then watered to settle them into their new home.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who chipped in on the day and came along to get some planting done and also enjoy the brilliant weather. This is our second year at the site and now the shared trail and bridges are officially opened, it has made the area a lot more accessible and on show to the public. If you haven't been down there yet, do yourself a favour and go have a look or join us there next year for a another great morning, planting along the creek.

Todd Hunter

(4)

(5)

(6)

Southern Road Wetland Planting

Sunday 16 August

If you did not know it was there it would be easily missed. The southern Road wetland is well worth the investigation to discover. We all arrived keen to do our bit to revegetate on an event hosted by the Banyule Bush crew and organised by Samantha the Main Ranger.

Activities commenced at the cottage garden by the shared trail. Previous plantings had established well and this days plantings would further this. People kept arriving until we were twenty strong. Sam spoke of the future plans for the site to promote the work done over the years. This may include an interpretive sign in a good location. Soon the planting had progressed down the slope to the water body fringe. People had got the hang of it by then and the laid out plants were soon in the ground.

The birdos amongst us spotted a grey fantail as well as male and female blue wrens. The planting included Lomandra, Dianella Goodenia the colourful Yellow Everlastings and Indigofera.

As the season draws to a conclusion I look forward to seeing the plants grow and the site establish as a destination along the Darebin Shared trail for travellers as well as the wildlife on the corridor leading from the Yarra to the beyond the Urban surrounds.

Adrian Hotchin

(7)

Nesting Wattle Bird (8)

Clamorous Reed Warbler (9)

Birds of Darebin Creek

Rainbow Lorikeet (10)

Nankeen Night Herron (11)

Darebin Creek Bird Survey
-October 21 2018-
Heidelberg West

(12) Spotted Pardalote

(13) Sacred Kingfisher

Weeding Thornbury trail entrances

Sunday 30th September

With the grand final behind us, 13 devoted volunteers and the Darebin Council Bushcrew met at 10am to help maintain the flourishing Darebin Creek Corridor.

It was a beautiful clear blue day and while waiting for remaining volunteers, we began picking up litter at the Clarendon Street entrance of the Parkland.

The group then walked down the trail to the Gooch Street entrance which had been dumped on by nearby building sites. The volunteers collected bag upon bag of rubbish from the Parkland, preventing it from entering any waterways, while Michelle from the bushcrew gave us a run down of which grasses were native and which were invasive and required removal.

Some tips for telling native grasses from non native are:

-The foliage of native grasses tends to be thinner

-The foliage of native grasses can be serrated (spear grass)

-The native grasses grow in tussocks rather than single blades

-The non-native grasses tend to be a deeper green, fuzzy and many seeded

Non-native grasses have a lot of viable seed and tend to be annuals (meaning that they go through their whole life in one year) and can quickly outgrow native grasslands, one of the endangered Ecological Vegetation Classes (Department of Sustainability and Environment).

Many interested locals stopped to have a chat about what we were doing and some very cute dogs were patted.

A big thank you to the Darebin Bushcrew running the event and for providing us with fruit, lollies and a delicious vegan brownie after a lovely morning of socialising, weeding and collecting rubbish. **Steph Black**

Acknowledgements

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A special thank you to all the Friends of Darebin Creek members and volunteers, locals, Park Rangers and Council Bushcrew workers, families and friends and anyone who contributed to the Friends throughout the year. We would not be able to do it without your support and we sincerely thank you.

Photo Credits:
1- Johny Leon (Instagram)
2-4 - Margaret De Kam
5-6, 14 - Wendy Miller
7-10 - Todd Hunter
11- 13 - Tom Crawshaw

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Wildlife Rescue : 0500 540 000

Victoria Police Motorcycle Squad : 9380 7283

EPA : 1300 372 842

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