

May 2021

## President's Report

Is there anything more glorious than a twilight stroll through the park on a warm early Autumn evening? Only if it's also guided by Ranger Pete Wiltshire, who spent time helping us reconnect with DPA members in March at our first in-person gathering for over a year.



Now that winter is almost upon us, that balmy night seems long ago – but happily, there are many opportunities to get back into the park with DPA.

We've had lots of enquiries about volunteering – if you're keen please join us for a Park Care day or contact [kate@dcmc.org.au](mailto:kate@dcmc.org.au) to join our regular Thursday morning planting/weeding group.

Read on for a report on our Park Care day on 16 May, including the magpie gang which has been thwarting our efforts to replant the south side of Mt Puffalo – worthy adversaries, but also lots of fun.

Pete also mentions some significant work on the memorial to the fire fighters who died in 1968 after a fire broke out in the tip site – and Danny updates on an exciting cultural burning project taking place in Nangak Tamboree.

The DPA AGM is days away, on Tuesday 25 May at 7.30pm. It is being held in person, at the DCMC Offices, near the Separation Street entrance.

If you're planning to attend, please RSVP [here](#) – and if you're not planning to attend, you are welcome to identify someone to vote on your behalf. If you would like more info, please sing out via [info@dpa.org.au](mailto:info@dpa.org.au).

At AGM, DPA members will have an opportunity to select the next Committee. This includes election of President from a field of two candidates – I encourage you to read their statements [here](#).

This is my last message as President – it might sound corny to say, but it really has been a privilege to be part of a group with such an important mission. Last year really showed us the importance of natural and green spaces in urban areas – the Parklands were a saving grace to many, as Nicole van Dijk's exhibition will reflect on 28-30 May.

Thanks to the DPA Committee members I've served alongside, over my five years on the Committee. We've done some terrific things together, not the least of which is our fab new website – and I look forward to seeing what comes next, particularly as the management plan begins to take shape. More on this at Tuesday's AGM.

See you in the park,  
Sofie

## Events 2021

**Get your hands dirty – join a Park Care Day and help us to plant native grasses and wildflowers. You don't need a green thumb, just an interest in the park and couple of hours free.**

Sunday 6 June, 1-3pm - Zero Land north  
Sunday 25 July, 1-3 pm - Puffalo East

**Four times per year, we invite members and friends to join us to catch up on activities in the park and hear from a guest speaker.**

Tuesday 25 May	Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 31 August	General Meeting
Tuesday 30 November	General Meeting

<https://www.dpa.org.au/events-calendar/>



# Pete's page

## News from the ranger in charge

Hi members,

Finally, it feels like we somewhat are back to normal, schools are coming back to the park, our bushkinders are thriving daily, our Gleeson Building is getting heavy bookings and most importantly the first DPA Parkcare day is just around the corner.

We have missed the Parkcare days and the people who come to them. It always is a good reminder to us of how people love the park and the sense of community a Parkcare days creates.

On the 16 May we planted out Mt Puffalo south again. I say again as the first planting didn't take as we had hoped, so it's back to the drawing board. This time we will get it right! Why didn't it work last time? The picture below is the reason why. Let me introduce you to Exhibit A, 'The Gang' 'These clowns decided our plantings were great fun to pull out of the ground. At first, we thought they were getting at worms easier, but after replanting the plants two more times with the Thursday Crew we discovered the magpies just loved pulling out our plants with no further interest in what's underneath. Vandalism of the highest order!!



**'The Gang'**

The challenge this Park Care day is to the pin the plants down after they have been planted. Kate and I have a few ideas to defeat the gang but secretly we love the gang, as these magpies are always good for a laugh when they hang around at our depot.

I have been working two days a week in the office for the last month writing up a component of the Parklands 2021 management plan. Along with Graeme we have both been busy writing to get this plan done before the end of May. We have a few more parts to go finish the first draft.

### Memorial for Fireman

We have been working with the family of Eric Jamieson one of the two firemen that died here in March 1968 fighting a fire.

The Jamieson family and Fire Rescue Victoria are keen to get the Firemen's memorial re-installed in the parklands.

For those of you that don't know a fire broke out in the tip site on 1st March 1968 and jumped the creek in the area we now known as Pobblebonk. Two firemen Eric Jamieson and Bruce Adams were trapped in a barbed wire fence covered in Gorse metres from their truck on Rockbeare Grove next to number 70. Both men were burnt badly and died in hospital from their injuries several days later.

The original memorial was removed in 1992 after constant vandalism as the plaques we made of copper and were repeatedly stolen. The memorial to the two firemen is currently at their fire station in Preston. Together with the families, Fire Rescue Victoria and DCMC plan to reinstall a memorial at the site of the incident and place a large rock and plaque at the bottom of Rockbeare Grove adjacent to number 70.

DCMC rangers is undertaking the renovation of the site and the installation of the memorial in the next few months.

I have included an article about the fire from The Age of 2 March 1968. **See next page**



# Firemen hurt in big blaze

Two firemen were severely burned and trains were halted for forty-five minutes yesterday in a grass fire which destroyed outbuildings, damaged houses and threatened 30 others at Alphonston, only six miles from the city centre, yesterday.

The firemen, Sub. Station Officer Bruce Adams and Senior Fireman Eric Jamieson, both of Preston, were taken to hospital in a serious condition.

# Bans clause in air row

The newly formed Flight Crew Officers' Industrial Tribunal yesterday granted a new pilots' award containing a bans clause in a bid to settle the DC-9 flight-ban row.

The application was made by TAA and Ansett-INA and opposed by the Australian Federation of Air Pilots.

The award — named the Air Pilots' Interim Award, 1968 — enables the airlines to take Industrial Court action against pilots in the event of a stoppage.

Both airlines are likely to lodge any application of the bans clause in the present ECJ dispute within the next few days.

Meanwhile, the Australian Federation of Air Pilots will consider applying to the High Court for a writ of prohibition against the decision of Prof. J. E. Isaac who sat as the tribunal.

The federation's executive vice-president, Mr. R. L. Swift, told Prof. Isaac that he union wanted the writ because it did not believe the tribunal had jurisdiction in making an award with a bans clause.

"There is no true dispute as is very evident that the employers intend to award

clause is that when this is done and when this issue has been resolved, I will be ready to entertain applications from one or both of the parties for its removal from the award," he said.

The new award replaces a private agreement made in 1968 between the airlines and the pilots.

Prof. Isaac said in his decision that apart from the bans clause, the new award could be consistent with the '68 agreement.

## Air safety

Prof. Isaac ruled that he could not make any decisions on air-safety matters raised in the DC9 dispute.

He said that, although he was sympathetic with the federations' case regarding safety factors, he could only refer them to other authorities vested to deal with them.

The airlines row has grounded TAA DC-9s in Brisbane and Sydney follow-

The fire interrupted rail services on the Heidelberg-Hillsbridge line as flames leapt under the Darebin Creek railway bridge.

The fire was declared safe and normal services were resumed late in the afternoon.

After a two-hour battle firemen and volunteers put out blazing sheds and houses and brought the fire under control.

The fire started at the Northcote tip and spread to 30 acres of grass and thick scrub.

Fanned by strong northerly winds the fire raced across the Darebin Creek gully and reached houses in Bank Row, Marralca and Arbor streets.

More than 50 firemen and 20 police fought the blaze to prevent it from spreading to houses evacuated earlier as the fire raged out of control.

At the height of the fire, with flames leaping up to 50 feet into the air, scores of people stood in the streets clutching their children.

Many had rushed out of their houses with belongings and had then gone back to help firemen fight the blaze.

In Arbor Street, five houses were saved after the fire had swept through the gardens to reach the other side of the street.

Melbourne's chief fire officer (Mr. J. Patterson) directed operations from the Eastern Hill fire station.



Since 1974, World Environment Day has been celebrated every year on 5 June, engaging governments, businesses and citizens to focus their efforts on a pressing environmental issue. It is the United Nations' principal vehicle for encouraging worldwide awareness and action for the protection of the environment. World Environment Day 2021 calls for urgent action to revive our damaged ecosystems.

According to the UN, ecosystem loss is depriving the world of carbon sinks, like forests and peatlands, at a time humanity can least afford it. The emergence of COVID-19 has also shown just how disastrous the consequences of ecosystem loss can be. By shrinking the area of natural habitat for animals, we have created ideal conditions for pathogens — including coronaviruses — to spread.

Ecosystem restoration is a global undertaking at massive scale. But it also includes the many small actions everyone can take, every day: growing trees, greening our cities, rewilding our gardens or cleaning up trash alongside rivers and coasts.

Lea Corbett, DPA Committee Member

## Park Care Day Sunday 16th May

Over 30 volunteers, including lots of kids — what a great turnout. Thanks to all that attended and Ranger Kate and helpers for making it happen.

The aim was to plant out the south side of Mt Puffalo with native grasses and wildflowers.

This is the same area that those 'Mercenary Magpies' had undermined a few years ago.

[See Pete's report on P2]

Unfortunately, they're at again but this time it's only 2 offenders 'Bonnie and Clyde' rather than the 'Gang of 6' who have managed to dig up some grasses -not as bad as last time. You've got to love those feisty birds.

Over 1300 grasses were planted and a range of wildflowers including cut leaf daisies and chrysanthemum species added.

What a magical place is Mt Puffalo? I'm sure there are many of us who remember the mountain of substandard soil that had come from the Domain tunnel to create the 'mountain'

Now Pete's vision of a sea of grass waves and wildflowers with views over and out of the park has become a reality

I just want to say a big thanks to the Thursday Crew for all their work planting out Snake Grass and all the hand weeding they do for us. Kate and I would be lost without them. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Park Care days.

See you in the park

Peter Wiltshire

## World Environment Day 5th June

Join the DPA and other local community groups working toward ecosystem restoration to celebrate World Environment Day. There will be information and other awareness raising activities.

Fairfield Village on Saturday 5 June. 11-2pm  
outside the Fairfield Community Centre

For more information, contact  
Jenny Vanwoerkom via [info@dpa.org.au](mailto:info@dpa.org.au)

## DPA's new website

After our even greater reliance of the DPA website in 2020 to communicate with our members and the general community (since our face-to-face events were mostly cancelled), we thought this year was the year for a new and improved version!

We have been working with Chris Thomas and his team to make the website easier for our supporters to navigate, find what they need and communicate with us.

We also wanted to make it easier to keep alive with up-to-date content and to showcase some really stunning photos of the Parklands from amateur and professional photographers alike.

We hope you will be delighted and inspired when we launch in June. Check out the new Events Calendar for 2021 in particular – we hope to see you at one of these very soon! If you would like more information on how the website is progressing or have ideas to share, please contact me – [leacorbett2020@gmail.com](mailto:leacorbett2020@gmail.com).

In the meantime, here is a sample of photos we have found, taken by professional photographer: **Deborah Dorman** in January 2018 and gifted to us. See [www.deborahdorman.com.au](http://www.deborahdorman.com.au) for more of Deborah's work from the Darebin Parklands.

Lea Corbett, DPA Committee Member

<https://galleries.page.link/SCNi1>

<https://galleries.page.link/PM5na>

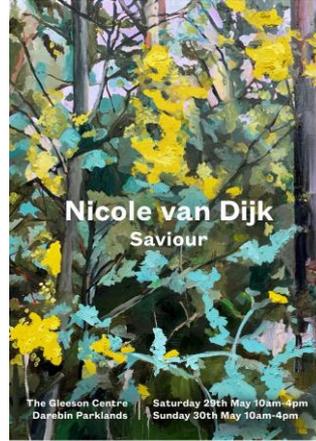


Photos courtesy of Deborah Dorman

## Art from the Park. Exhibition

Over the weekend of 28-30 May, **Nicole van Dijk** will be holding her first solo exhibition at the **Environment Centre at the end of Separation Street**.

Her work depicts a series of paintings and prints reflecting on the role of Darebin Parklands during lockdown.



**Saturday 29 May**  
10am-4pm

**Sunday 30 May**  
10am-4pm

**Enquiries:**

**Nicole**  
0411 574174

[hello@nicolevandijk.com.au](mailto:hello@nicolevandijk.com.au)

Nicole has made a donation of \$1000 to the DPA, which we will use for an activity which helps people connect with the park – reflecting the valuable role the park played for Nicole during lockdown.

## Junior Rangers



Junior Rangers activities for 2021 are in the works, but not yet ready to announce. Our current JR Coordinator is looking for assistance – if you have an interest in JR, and are willing and able to help out, please let us know via [info@dpa.org.au](mailto:info@dpa.org.au).

Keep an eye out on our new website and facebook page for updates in 2021 <https://www.dpa.org.au/>



# Up and down the creek

**Report of the Darebin Creek Management Committee by Danny Reddan Coordinator**

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## **Cultural burn project**

Nangak Tamboree will see the Wurundjeri Narrap team carry out the first cultural burn of the project on May 19th. Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung's Mandy Nicholson, who has been recruited to the Narrap unit along with two other Wurundjeri women, will take on a project officer role for the project. A launch for the project will be held in late May.

DCMC has been collaborating with Bush Heritage on the Darebin Creek Valley plan and will be sending out an expression of interest to stakeholders for the first workshop to take place in mid-June. We are also in talks with Wurundjeri to hold a Healthy Country planning workshop with elders to establish cultural priorities to later be incorporated into the Darebin Creek Valley Plan.

DCMC projects including Maserati Park and Mckimmies road escarpment are progressing along with the FoDC Weed Watch and Reach 4 connectivity projects. There will be a community Reach Four planting on June 6 meeting at the Kingsbury Bowls Club including a Wurundjeri Welcome to Country and other activities.

## **Waterbugs and frogs monitoring project**

Peter Grenfell and Peter Hausler have initiated the citizen science Waterbug and frogs monitoring program. There are currently six wetland sites being monitored for waterbugs, with results being uploaded to the National Waterbug Blitz database. There is coordinating an extension of the Platypus project engaging citizen science volunteers in EDNA sampling to determine the variety of species using the creek. The climbing equipment has been secured for the Nestboxes for Wildlife project ready to engage Banyule and Darebin bush crews in their installation and monitoring, creating cross creek corridors for wildlife.

## **Education Program**

The Education program contributed to the Whittlesea Youth Leading the World Congress – DCMC worked with OzGreen and staff and students from St Monica's College in Epping for a two-day congress. Students have come up with a number of projects aimed at environmental improvements to their wetland and local sustainability.

DCMC staff ran a nestbox-making puzzle activity at the City of Whittlesea's Nature Discovery Walk at Granite Hills, South Morang. St Bernadette's in Ivanhoe have done three litter audits at three different locations along the creek along with waterbugs activities. Thornbury High School continues to get involved in water quality monitoring, along with waterbug testing along the creek next to Fez's Wetland, Thornbury. St Pius X Bush School – DCMC staff have led a number of activities with 30 preps and year ones at the creek in Heidelberg West.

Looking ahead, Reservoir East Primary will be assisting in the planting of a revegetation area below Dunne Street in Reservoir.

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**Waterbug detectives at work**

**Danny Reddan Coordinator.  
Darebin Creek Management Committee**

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