

## President's Report

### Thanks so much to those who came along to our **Clean Up Australia Day**

This was a great success, very well attended by all ages, despite the drizzle. The volunteers cleared many bags of rubbish from the Parklands which were collected and sorted by Darebin City Council. The most frequent items that concerned our emu army were fragments of polystyrene and single use water bottles.

We can help address this further by encouraging the businesses we buy from to use environmentally friendly packaging and by avoiding, purchasing bottled water.

At our November meeting Graeme Martin, DPA member and past President, spoke about **Village Energy, a local, community run enterprise** which aims to address climate change and increase energy independence, while helping reduce the local energy. We also enjoyed **'Walk and Talk with Ranger Pete'** where we heard, amongst other things, about the fish ladder, rewilding in the hope of seeing swamp wallabies again, and the challenges of trying to deal with the invasive Wandering Tradescantia weed,



**Pete explains the workings of the fish ladder at the 'crossing stones'** See his report over the page

The next **DPA General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 29 March**, at the Gleeson Centre. We're excited to hear from our guest speaker, Kim Davis of Wildlife Victoria. Once again, the DPA Committee reports have been provided beforehand in this newsletter, allowing the focus of the meeting to be on our guest speaker and member discussion.

One issue the Committee has been discussing recently is the confusion that exists in the community between the roles of the DPA as a community friends group and the DCMC as the management organisation. This is evident in the nature of the questions that we receive. The DPA evolved from the Rockbeare Park Conservation Group and has a proud history as a community driven, conservation focused group. We need to strengthen this identity as a Friends Group and to distinguish ourselves from the DCMC, and are thinking of ways in which we can do so.

**The Rockbeare Park Conservation Group** was established in 1973, with local residents fighting to save the Darebin Creek Valley from development. If any members have photographs of the Darebin Parklands from around this time, or of the Rockbeare Park Conservation Group enjoying the Parklands, we'd love to have copies as we approach our 50th anniversary.

We're excited to resume **Junior Ranger activities** very soon! Junior Rangers aged between 8-15 years will be invited to learn how to play Kubb during the next school holidays on Monday 11 April. Kubb is a Scandinavian game similar to horseshoes or bowls and the details of this members only event and how to join in will be emailed soon. A JR event for younger members is being planned for May. Adults often remark they would like to join in the Junior Ranger activities, such as archery and spotlighting, so we will be adapting some traditional Junior Ranger events for the over 16s! **See p4 for more details**

Ranger Pete has recently purchased a fire pit, so, as the weather starts to cool, we're looking forward to having marshmallows around the fire, and will organise separate events for both under and over 16s.

I represented the DPA at the second Darebin Creek Valley Plan (DCVP) workshop and am happy to say the DCVP is progressing well. On other planning issues I am still concerned that the councils have not responded to the Draft Darebin Parklands Management Plan, and that Darebin City Council has reduced its funding of the DCMC, and effectively of the Parklands.

I also want to remind you that Danny Reddan, DCMC Coordinator, has offered the opportunity for a DPA member to complete the **Habitat Conservation and Management Course**. This field-based course welcomes amateur and professional conservationists, and enables them to develop their conservation skills. Please contact me if you are interested.

A big thank you to everyone who has made a donation this year, especially the daughter of one of our members, who asked friends to donate to the DPA instead of buying her a birthday present. Such an unexpected and much appreciated gift to the DPA! Looking forward to seeing you in the Parklands soon!

**Maryanne Newton. DPA President**

# DAREBIN PARKLANDS NEWS

## News from the ranger in charge

### Pete's page

Hello Members,

It's been a while since I have written for the DPA newsletter and there is a bit to catch up on.

Kate Grinter finished up on the 10th of February and is now a West Australian so I have been the lone ranger for the last month.

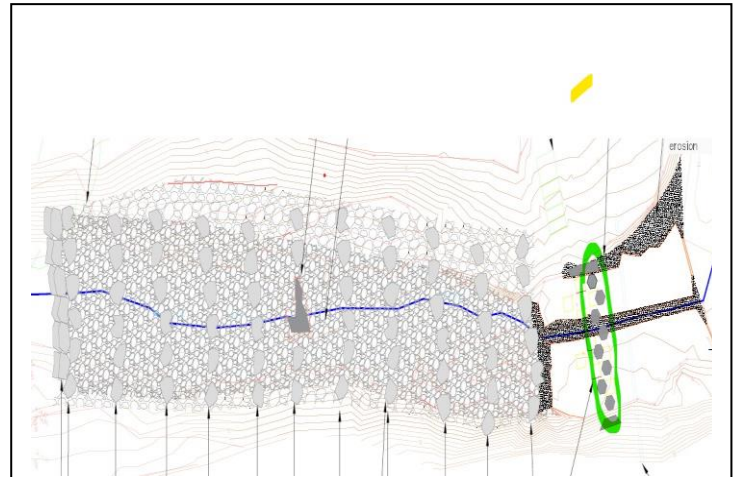
I advertised the position in late January and received just under 50 applicants which we shorted listed to eight, then down to a final five for interview on Wednesday 9th March.

Ironically, we selected the DPA's information nights next guest speaker, Kim Davis from Wildlife Victoria. To add to the irony, the DPA information night (29 March) is Kim's first day here a ranger. Kim is an outstanding addition to the DCMC team as she brings zoological expertise and more importantly, youth!

We will start up the Thursday crew activities together once more in April and enjoy getting the everyone back for some planting and tea & cake.

The main reason for the hold off was originally how dry it was as there wasn't much use in weeding etc. Since we have had 60mm of rain in the last few weeks, the ground is not far off being ready for some planting along the creek.

The main news I need to share with you is that the Melbourne Water fish ladder project is due to commence on 4th April. The project will create a network of rises in the creek over 25metres downstream of crossing stones. The old crossing stones and the existing channel will be removed and the new crossing stones put in their place. I have attached a diagram of the project in an effort to help you understand what I'm trying to describe. The circled green is the new crossing stones design at the existing spot.



**The new fish ladder**

Ivanhoe Wetland is currently being allowed to empty as we try to eradicate the infestation of Alligator weed which is a weed of national significance.

The infestation of the weed must have occurred during one of the flood events or by the pumping from the creek to top up the wetlands. The Department of Agriculture oversees all control of Alligator weed and have appointed Riparian Restoration who specialise in its control and have asked me to allow the wetlands to empty over the last few months. Two treatments have been undertaken to date with the third and last planned for early April. Riparian Restoration are confident that it will be totally eradicated all Alligator weed by May this year at Darebin Parklands.

The latest flash flooding provided some challenges at the Clifton bridge after a huge dead redgum tree/log got stuck under the Clifton bridge. I was determined not to cut it up as I had visions of taking to a Bushkinder site. So, I spent two days clearing the bridge and eventually removing the log, but if you have been in the parklands in the last week, you might notice the log on the floodplain near the base of the bluestone steps, it proved too heavy my tractor or ute to drag up the hill. **See photo over**



## Pete's page

[Continued]



Red gum in the creek

You might already have gathered that Darebin Parklands is a turtle hotspot at but our Monash University turtle researchers set two traps in the Duck Pond and wetland 2 (base of the spillway) for just one night and caught 128 eastern longneck turtles. Mind boggling numbers! Not only did we build a water treatment system, but it appears a turtle sanctuary as well.

See you in the park & the information night 29th March.

## Parkcare Days 2022

May -August 2022. At last!!!!

Park Care Days are a valuable way for members to contribute to the revegetation of areas within the park. Activities are organized by the Rangers and usually involve mass planting of indigenous species. Put the dates in your calendar.?? The day starts at 1.00pm and concludes at 3.00pm with a delicious arvo tea. About 30-40 members usually turnout so it's a great way to meet people

**Sunday May22      Zeroland**

[Adjacent to the carpark at the end of Separation Street]

**Sunday June 19.....Snakegrass**

[Along the ridge and down to the creek on the northern boundary] Access at the Northern end of the carpark.

**Sunday July 24 ..... Snakegrass**

**Sunday August,14      Wildflower planting**

## Clean up Australia Day

Sunday March 6

Thanks to all those who attended and collected an eclectic array of rubbish -see below. The Park looks great. More details see President's report



## From the archives



'Clean up Australia Day'??? circa 1975

More great photos of the Park's past at:

<http://victoriancollections.net.au/organisations/darebin-parklands-association>



## Membership cards for the DPA

The DPA Committee is looking forward to providing you with DPA membership cards! This is a new initiative to create a greater sense of community within the DPA, and to help DPA Committee members to identify you at events, particularly members-only events to which you have exclusive access. The photos on this year's cards are of the sculpture The Nest, by David Bell and Gary Tippett, and of a gorgeous beetle.

We'll provide you with further information regarding collection of the 2022 membership cards as soon as we're able to.



Sample membership cards

## Events calendar 2022

NB exact dates to be confirmed during the year

**March 29**..... Kim Davis of Wildlife Victoria.  
Gleeson Centre 7.30pm

**May 31**..... Annual General Meeting

**November TBA**.... Final Meeting and BBQ

Check the website and Facebook for updated details and confirmation

***NB Ranger Pete has announced in his report that Kim Davis has been appointed as our new Ranger. Congratulations and welcome. [see P2]***

Darebin Parklands News is published quarterly by:  
The Darebin Parklands Association.

ABN 15090517257  
Email: [info@dpa.org.au](mailto:info@dpa.org.au)

[dpa.org.au](http://dpa.org.au)/[facebook.com/darebinpark](https://www.facebook.com/darebinpark)



## JR NEWS ROUNDUP

We are excited to be holding an event for the Junior Rangers in the Parklands on Monday April 11<sup>th</sup>

### 'Kubbs comes to the Park'

This is a Scandinavian game, played on grass, where the objective is to knock over wooden blocks (Kubbs) by throwing wooden batons at them. Kubb can be described as a combination of bowling and horseshoes

Play takes place on a small rectangular playing field, known as a "pitch" with teams at either end. Kubbs are placed at both ends of the pitch, and the "king", a larger wooden block, is placed in the middle of the pitch.

The ultimate objective of the game is to knock over the Kubbs on the opposing side of the pitch, and then to knock over the "king", before the opposing team does. Kubb is easy to learn and we can show you how.

***This event is for children in the 8 -15-year-old range who are DPA family members with a parent/guardian in attendance. We are planning to hold an event for younger Junior Rangers during May.***

Further details, including how to secure a place at these activities will be available closer to the date

## Membership of the DPA

Families (or individuals) can join the DPA.

Join up and get full details at [www.dpa.org.au](http://www.dpa.org.au) or [www.facebook.com/darebinpark](https://www.facebook.com/darebinpark).

# Up and down the creek

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

## **Nangak Team report**

We were fortunate to be able to hold two tours of Nangak Tamboree in November led by Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung elder Dave Wandin who arranged a smoking ceremony and to welcome to country. The participants took in the results of work done healing country e.g., burning and the construction of an ephemeral wetland



**Matted Flax Lily**

. As well as learning the extensive cultural knowledge from Dave, a particular highlight was viewing the Matted Flax Lily in the cultural burn site and wildlife including a Kookaburra feeding a skink to its young in a DCMC nestbox, a sacred kingfisher, Krefft's Glider and a nesting Dusky Woodswallow.

Unfortunately, an opportunity to burn in spring was missed due to the wet La Nina conditions however an arsonist partially completed it for us. The Narrap team were able to then follow up with weed control. The Narrap unit have begun working on a number of activities including blackberry control and burn preparation. This year will involve a substantial increase in the area of burns and follow up direct seeding trails, placement of habitat logs, creation of another wetland, instalment of wildlife cameras and a continuation of weed control.

## **Darebin Creek Valley plan workshop**

The workshop was held on November 24 with attendance from each of our key stakeholders. In another successful day, we collected a wealth of strategic information for the development of our plan which will be shared in the first quarter of 2022. As a "living" plan it will continue to develop as we implement activities and feedback through monitoring over the next 10 years and beyond. Maryanne provided valuable input, particularly with the community creek connection target.

## **Conservation and Management Course.**

This course, which has been delivered annually by some of Melbourne's leading ecologists for almost forty years and has been hosted by Greening Australia for the last 15 years but will be delivered by DCMC for the first time in 2022.

## **FoDC Reach 4 connectivity project.**

Planning is underway for 2022 including strategies for improving seedling success in what has proved to be a challenging site at Dunne Street.

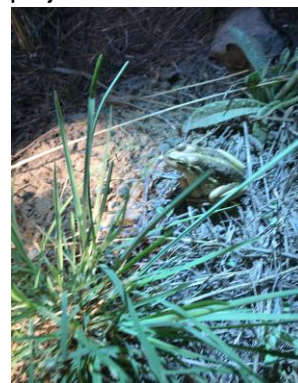
The project will also begin its extension into Whittlesea with a planting day planned for national tree day at Norris Banks Reserve

## **Growling Grass Frogs**

There has been busy coordinating Growling Grass Frog surveying through December and January.

This citizen science project supports the monitoring being undertaken by DELWP and will provide valuable data to inform GGF habitat conservation and restoration projects. More recently, we have surveyed the frogs at Hanson Quarry in Wollert as part of a new collaborative project with the mine.

Planning is underway for our Maserati Park restoration project and the reboot of the Habitat



**Growling Grass Frogs at Hanson Quarry in Wollert**

## **Darebin Creek Education Program (DCEP)**

During December, DCEP worked with the following schools:

□ Ivanhoe Primary visited Darebin Parklands excursion for around 90 Year 2 students discovering waterbus living in the creek.

□ Fitzroy High School visited Darebin Parklands with around 80 Year 7 students investigating water bugs classification.

□ Wales St Primary visited Darebin Parklands with approximately 70 Year 5 students participating in waterbugs sampling and water quality testing.

After having done some ropes and harness revision with a local arborist, DCMC staff joined with Banyule Bushcrew members to install a number of nestboxes near CH Sullivan Park in Reservoir. Over twenty new nestboxes for sugar gliders, possums, rosellas and kookaburras have been installed in the area from Tyler Street to Sullivan Grassland. Volunteers have begun monitoring the boxes at the end of Tyler St. The next site for installing new and maintaining current nestboxes will be at Fez's Wetland in Thornbury.

**Waterwatch** recently allowed water monitoring to restart after a long hiatus due to COVID. We had our first water monitoring session with the Thursday crew at the Darebin Parklands "Dog Ford" site in early December, with 5 volunteers. We will aim to do water monitoring on the last Thursday of each month