
Newsletter

December 2016

FRIENDS OF SKELETON CREEK

Volunteers restoring our local creek



A busy year that was!

By Denice Perryman

This year ends the busiest and most productive year our group's ever experienced.

We've basically had two secretaries running the show, which has worked us both hard. John Dawes (the second unofficial FoSC secretary) is bringing the volunteers in with his social media/publicity savvy, and holding and growing our group.

Congratulations to all our volunteers in whatever capacity - all round, for 2016! See you in 2017!

FoSC Mt Rothwell Night Tour

Saturday 14th January, 7:30 pm

Mt Rothwell is the largest predator free ecosystem in Victoria. The property is exclusively managed for the conservation of some of Australia's most threatened faunal species, including the Eastern Barred Bandicoot and Eastern Quoll.

Denice has made a group booking for Saturday night 14th January. Cost is \$35 a head, with a minimum cost of \$240. But with Denice putting in \$100 (a gift card from an Australia Post survey she did) and we get a few interested people along, we may only be looking at about \$25 a head.

Mt Rothwell Biodiversity & Interpretive Centre is located at 5 Mt Rothwell Rd, Little River. BBQs are available there for a self-catered evening meal.

We can organise and provide details when we know how many are coming. If you're interested, please let Denice know on 9315 8072, 0429 167 013 or deniceperryman1@gmail.com.

More information about Mt Rothwell Biodiversity & Interpretive Centre at <http://mtrothwell.com.au/>

Melbourne Water Grant Approved!

Gerard Morel, Waterways and Land Officer, Werribee Catchment, Melbourne Water, has given us the good news that our 2017 grant application has been approved! And well done to Denice Perryman for submitting the successful application.



Skeleton Creek Interpretive Signage Panels

Installations in New Year

The final drafts of our nine signage panels were reviewed just before Christmas, and to not rush the manufacturing and installation process they will be installed in the new year.



One of the nine interpretive signage panels, 'Improving the Health of Skeleton Creek', is going in opposite the 'Denice Perryman Seat', just off Selwood Place in Altona Meadows.

Our FoSC subcommittee, including Bob Winters - the flora and fauna contents provider, has worked tirelessly on finalising the signage in conjunction with Andrew Webster and the Hobsons Bay City Council conservation and communications departments, and Hayden Goodall of Sardine graphics studio.

Our \$20,000 grant for the cost for the panels are part of HBCC's Skeleton Creek Trail upgrade. Both Wetlands Ward Councillors Cr Colleen Gates and Carl Marsich were instrumental in obtaining this significant grant for our group, which will benefit the community in educating and enhancing their experience of our creek.

Another unannounced breach of Skeleton Creek

Tarneit walkway construction

Following FoSC member's Wren Brown's tip-off (with photographic evidence), Peter Gibbs, Environment Officer at Wyndham City Council, addressed our concerns about the recent unannounced walkway construction over Skeleton Creek, north of St Nicholas Crt, Tarneit.

He said Wyndham Council has since added "more steps to the approval process," so we'll be more informed next time - as we were meant to be informed before this walkway construction!

This is another unannounced breach of Skeleton Creek by stakeholder authorities, following the damming debacle last year at the Waterhaven Estate, Point Cook.

Dogs Breakfast on Again

Saturday, 14th January

8:30 am - 11:30 am, Apex Park Queen St, Altona

Hobsons Bay Council are putting on the free Dogs Breakfast for another year. Learn about how you and your dog can enjoy our wonderful coast while protecting our precious local wildlife.

Special guests are birdman Sean Dooley, The Lost Dogs Home, BirdLife Australia, with roving entertainment from The Connies. Discounted microchipping and free dog registration are being offered on the day.

Further information from:

<http://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/.../Dogs-breakfast-and-micro...>

Skeleton Creek 'Source to the Sea' tour

Early stages of planning

As he raised at our AGM, Andrew Webster, Senior Conservation Ranger, Hobsons Bay Council, has offered to take our group on an escorted conservation tour from the source of Skeleton Creek - Mt Cottrell, south of Melton, to the mouth of Skeleton Creek - the Cheatham Wetlands, Altona Meadows.

Andrew has conducted a similar tour for the Friends of Lower Kororoit Creek, in conjunction with Gerard Morel, Waterways and Land Officer, Werribee Catchment, Melbourne Water.

Our committee is now in the early stages of planning with Andrew Webster to find a suitable timeframe and also the availability of a council mini-bus. Andrew will also talk to Gerard Morel about when he is available to join us on this tour. This tour will most probably be held midweek.

Details to come.

Meet and Ask at the Hub

By Denice Perryman

I represented the Friends of Skeleton Creek at the ASK Expo (Access, Services and Knowledge) on 15th December at the Laverton Community Hub.

ASK was hosted by Hobsons Bay Interagency Network and Linking Laverton. Agencies and community groups provided a range of free information sessions, demonstrations and talks for people who needed advice or assistance with available services.

Other groups such as the BayWest Bicycle Users Group and Hobsons Bay Men's Shed were represented. I picked up five email addresses to add to our FoSC newsletter mailing list.

Wetlands Ward Cr Colleen Gates was in attendance and I passed onto her our sincere thanks again in her obtaining funding for the final three interpretive signs.

I was taken by the idea of charity group Pinchapoo - "A cheeky way to help", which asks travellers to pick up shampoos, toothpaste and body wash from their travel accommodation to use in packs for use after bushfires, floods and for unfortunate people down on their luck. Being clean helps give back dignity.

The Laverton Community Hub plans to have a collection point. More information on Pinchapoo at

<http://www.pinchapoo.org.au/>

Friends of Skeleton Creek

Calendar of Activities 2017

We have now set our calendar of activities with both Hobsons Bay and Wyndham City councils for 2017.

As you know, sometimes we may need to adjust our plans close to the time of each activity.

Details of the activities are always publicised in this newsletter and on our [Facebook Community Page](#).

*Except where shown, all FoSC activities are held on a **Sunday from 1 pm to 3 pm***

Tuesday 14 February, 10 am to 12 pm

Bromage Close, Hoppers Crossing
Weed mat spreading

26 February

Spicer Blvd, Altona Meadows
Site familiarisation and weeding

26 March

Bromage Close, Hoppers Crossing
Mulch spreading

Tuesday 11 April, 10 am to 12 pm

Labassa Way, Seabrook
Sign rejuvenation and shrub planting

23 April

Clarendon Crt, Seabrook
Maintenance

28 May

Spicer Blvd, Altona Meadows
Planting

Tuesday 13 June, 10 am to 12 pm

Bromage Close, Hoppers Crossing
Planting

25 June

Bromage Close, Hoppers Crossing
Planting

23 July (alternative National Tree Day)

(official day is Sunday, 30 July 2017)

Bromage Close, Hoppers Crossing
Planting

27 August

Spicer Blvd, Altona Meadows
Planting

24 September

Bushcare's Big Day Out
Bromage Close, Hoppers Crossing
Mulch spreading

22 October

Merton St/Markham Way, Altona Meadows
Maintenance

26 November

Bromage Close, Hoppers Crossing
Maintenance

2017-18 Environment Grants program

Hobsons Bay City Council

Our group has applied for a HBCC's environmental grant which is tied in with the yearly conservation field day we do for the Seabrook Primary School students.

We want to fund this day, held in April, through the requested \$800 grant, which includes purchasing plants for the students to put in, and to upgrade our group promotional and educational materials used on the day and at future events.

We have priced a new sturdy sandwich board and banner that will have our new logo and other promotional and educational material printed on them.

The 2017-18 Environment Grants program provides financial assistance to local community organisations and groups for activities and projects that meet an environmental need in the community. Groups can apply for up to \$2,000.

Christmas Break-up Meeting at Denice's

The FoSC Christmas break-up meeting attracted eight to Denice's home in Altona Meadows on Wednesday 7th December.

Denice provided the main course, while the guests brought along salads and desserts - at what was an enjoyable festive social get-together, as well as a short group meeting.

A portrait of our group provided

We have provided a two-page profile of our group to Victorian Environment Friends Network, who have been asked to prepare a series of portraits of Friends groups for the office of the Victorian State Minister for Energy, Environment & Climate Change.

Following the Minister's attendance at the recent Best Friend Award ceremony, there is interest in learning more about Friends groups, particularly those working in the greater Melbourne area. This interest also relates to the work the state government is doing prior to the release of its Biodiversity Strategy in early 2017.

A call from Manor Lakes College

Denice had a call from Manor Lakes College, Wyndham Vale, asking if we could conduct a planting/weeding session down at Skeleton Creek for some 120 to 150 students last month. This was too short notice. Such requests require a fair amount of planning to be conducted properly, but we would investigate the possibility of doing something for the college in 2017.

Membership

Friends of Skeleton Creek & Altona Bay Wetlands Inc.

Your volunteering at our activities is highly valued, even if you can only find time to contribute a few hours during the year.

Membership is not compulsory, but it can help you feel more connected with our group.

Cost is: Individual FoSC Membership/Mailing List - \$10.00; Family FoSC Membership/Mailing List - \$15.00

Membership is effective from the AGM date of 2nd November 2016 through to the next AGM and renewal date of 1st November 2017.

Payment details are on the FoSC Membership Form. Completion of the FoSC membership form and payment can be made at one of our monthly meetings or at an activity day.

The FoSC Membership form is attached in the email of this newsletter.

You can also request the membership form by emailing: friendsofskeletoncrk@gmail.com

FoSC Newsletter Subscription Email Changes? Unsubscribe?

If you want to advise a change to your email address or unsubscribe from this newsletter, please email us with the necessary details to:
friendsofskeletoncrk@gmail.com

Friends of Skeleton Creek meetings are held the first Wednesday in the month (except January), starting at 7:30 pm, Old Laverton School, Altona Meadows (corner Kiora St and Cameron Ave).

The next FoSC meeting will be on Wednesday 1st February. All Welcome.



The Friends of Skeleton Creek & Altona Bay Wetlands Inc. gratefully acknowledge the support of Melbourne Water

Friends of Skeleton Creek Committee

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|---|--|--|
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