

Friends of Skeleton Creek & Altona Bay Wetlands Inc.



President	Secretary	Treasurer	
Angela Whiffin	Denice Perryman	Ewen Cowie	PO Box 452 Laverton Vic 3028
angelawhiff@hotmail.com	deniceperryman1@gmail.com	friendsofskeletoncrk@gmail.com	Incorporation No. A0029721P
Tel 93692892	Tel 93158072	Tel 93158603	

March 2015 Newsletter

PLANTING AT CATALINA COURT, POINT COOK, SUNDAY 22ND MARCH

On Sunday 22nd March, from 1-3pm, we are planting at Catalina Court in Point Cook (intersects The Breakwater and The Boulevard). Wyndham City Council are supplying 500 plants to put in. We have produced a flyer and will contact newspapers and schools to get our volunteer numbers up. Come along and help if you can – and, as always, you will need sturdy footwear, hat and gloves. The Council are providing afternoon tea.

MULCH SPREADING AT MERTON ST/MARKHAM WAY, ALTONA MEADOWS

Merton St / Markham Way, Altona Meadows, was the site for our 22nd February mulch spreading activity. It was a hot, sticky and humid day and FOSC Organiser Denice and Hobson's Bay City Council Ranger Libby turned up expecting to be on their own. So it was a pleasant surprise to have seven local or "localish"



The volunteers showed their mulching hands on a hot, sticky and humid day along Skeleton Creek, Altona Meadows

residents turn out to help with the process of wheelbarrowing mulch and spreading it around our plants.

We have been really lucky with the mild Summer – with a much higher survival rate for our plants. Our mulching of the plants will greatly help, as

mulch has the dual purpose of helping keep in moisture and keeping weeds down.

Thanks to Greg, John, Kristine, Brenda, Nisha and Raj for their assistance on a hot day.

We all felt gratified at the end, especially when the heavy rain came down and cooled us off. We reminded the volunteers that they would normally pay for exercise and sweating it out like this!



Volunteer Greg at the mulching site, pushing his wheelbarrow past the unofficial 'Denice Perryman Seat'. Denice had successfully lobbied the Council for it to be installed (unfortunately spoiled by graffiti, but since promptly removed by Council, after being reported via 'Snap Send Solve', the smartphone app <http://www.snapsendsolve.com/>)

MERTON ST / MARKHAM WAY / CLARENDON CRT GRANT SPEND

Angela Whiffin has ordered the stakes and guards for our Merton St /Markham Way / Clarendon Crt plantings, and has also ordered the plants for Merton St. Great work, Angela!

FIXING POINT COOK RD UNDERPASS FLOODING

We have been attempting to get the Hobson's Bay City Council to fix a problem with the underpass, as it floods in wet weather forcing people to cross the busy and dangerous Point Cook Rd - or to get wet feet. Cyclists, such as from the BayWest Bicycle Users Group, have also been agitating for the Council to do something about it for some time.

After a number of unsuccessful attempts at dealing with Council staff, we have resorted to asking Wetlands Ward Councillors - Colleen Gates (current Mayor) and Carl Marsich to assist us.

They have taken our problem on board and are working on our behalf to fix the problem. We will keep you posted.

WYNDHAM GRANTS EXPO

Denice, Angela and Neil staffed our FOOSC stall at the Wyndham Grants Expo on 19th February. While we had lots of people talk to us and 12 give us their email addresses, we thought it might have been better with more advertising and if the Expo had been held on the weekend, instead of midweek. It was really interesting to see the range of volunteering opportunities there is in the community and to meet the people achieving this.

LIKING OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

Thanks to Peta Keown, our Facebook page is up and running. Here's the link: <https://www.facebook.com/friendsofskeltoncreek>

Peta is looking for good photos to put on our page - so if you have any suitable ones, please contribute to the site. Already, there are over 30 people "liking" us (which has made Peta pleasantly surprised). To promote FOOSC, can all our members /volunteers with Facebook accounts please "like" our group and also ask their like-minded friends to do the same. Well done, Peta!

CREEK ABUSE AND MISUSE RECTIFIED

FOOSC member Wrenford Brown has had a successful outcome in dealing with some creek abuse and misuse near his home.

"What was originally a concrete and rock cover for a deep sewage line became a footpath. That then became a motorbike crossing, which then became a car crossing and rubbish tip!" he said.

"I approached Wyndham Council as a member of the Friends [of Skeleton Creek] and requested that they do something about the mess. A visit was made to the site by a Council member, but nothing happened.

"However, Melbourne Water responded quickly to my approach, once again as a member of the Friends. The mess was cleaned up and a barrier of large rocks was installed at one end to prevent vehicle access. An excellent outcome. Thank you Melbourne Water."

(See 'before and after' photos next page)



Before: part of the creek became a motorbike crossing, which then became a car crossing and rubbish tip



After: Melbourne Water responded quickly, the mess was cleaned up and a barrier of large rocks was installed to prevent vehicle access

WERRIBEE RIVER SUFFERS FROM TOWN RUBBISH

Werribee Riverkeeper John Forrester is very concerned about the rubbish from the town flowing into the river.

The latest 'Clean Up Australia Day' highlighted the problem.

The FOSC Committee will send an official letter to the EPA in support of John's efforts - we also encourage our members to do the same.

From John's experience, after many emails, "the EPA need a prod, to get them to notice the West and all of the stuff I've raised."

Send your concerns for the health of the Werribee River, in support of Werribee Riverkeeper John Forrester to: contact@epa.vic.gov.au

Friends of Skeleton Creek

2015 CALENDAR

*** Starting and finishing time of activities are 1pm to 3pm, unless otherwise advised.*

(**Hobson's Bay City Council** activity highlighted in **bold**, Wyndham City Council activity underlined)

Sun 22 March - Planting at Catalina Court, Point Cook (council to provide afternoon tea)

Sun 19 April - Mulch spreading at Merton St / Markham Way, Altona Meadows

Sun 24 May - Planting at Merton St / Markham Way, Altona Meadows

Tues 16 June - Planting at Merton St / Markham Way, Altona Meadows

Sun 28 June - Planting at Carshalton Crt, Hoppers Crossing

Sun 26 July - National Tree Day at Merton St / Markham Way, Altona Meadows

Sun 23 August - Planting at Carshalton Crt, Hoppers Crossing

Sun 27 September - Weeding / Maintenance at Catalina Court, Point Cook

Sun 25 October - Mulch spreading (if needed) at Merton St / Markham Way, Altona Meadows

Sun 22 November - Weeding at Clarendon Crt, Seabrook

Note: sometimes we may need to adjust our plans close to the time of each activity.

The next FOSC meeting is on Wed 1 April, 7:30 pm, at the Old School House, Laverton (corner of Kiora St and Cameron Av).