



Friends of Skeleton Creek & Altona Bay Wetlands Inc.



AGM 2015

The Committee



Angela Whiffin
President



Denice Perryman
Secretary



Ewen Cowie
Treasurer

October 2014

- The Hobson's Bay Conservation Bus Tour to Melton Botanic Garden - inspiring gardens, incredible volunteer base



November 2014

- Sunday 23th Nov - Watering Day, Merton St/Markham Way, Altona Meadows, 11 volunteers, followed by a downpour - we knew how to bring the rain!



Note: Not actually
Denice's car.



February 2015

- Thursday 2nd Feb - Denice and Angela remove stakes at Carinza Ave, Altona Meadows - site was looking lush and fabulous!

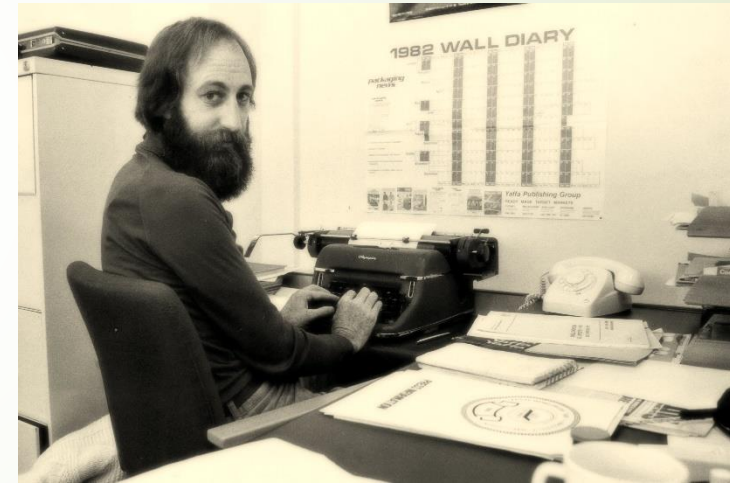


- FoSC Facebook page up and running - <https://www.facebook.com/friendsofskeletoncreek> – thanks Peta Keown



February 2015 (continued)

- Sunday 22nd Feb - Mulch Spreading at Merton St/Selwood Pl, Altona Meadows – seven volunteers on a hot, sticky and humid day, followed by a downpour!



- Found a much needed publicity officer - John Dawes
- Wyndham City Council Grants Expo (19th Feb)
Neil, Denice and Angela represented our group

March 2015

- Sunday 22nd March - Native Grass Planting (500 planted on a hot day) at Catalina Crt, Point Cook



- Baby long-neck turtle hatching down the Creek (rescuer Cath Stephensen)



April 2015

- Sunday 19th April - Mulch Spreading Markham Way/Merton St, Altona Meadows



- Seabrook Primary School water quality project
- 150 Grade 3 & 4 students – planting, pollution and water bugs!



May 2015

- Sunday 24th May - a bumper Planting Day (435 plants), Merton St/Markham Way, Altona Meadows
- Huge effort and attendance ... and we ran out of afternoon tea!



June 2015

- Tues 16th June - mid-week Planting (HBCC Senior Ranger Andrew Webster attending for Libby Rigby), Selwood Place, Altona Meadows



- Duncan Kennedy's volunteering story about FoSC is published online by his US-based employer Epicor

June 2015 (continued)

- Sunday 28th June, Carshalton Crt, Hoppers Crossing - 22 planters, 300 native grasses planted in Cunningham's skink habitat



- Continuing large numbers of local volunteers turning up
- Continuing support by our Indian Dera Sacha Sauda community group of volunteers - a big thank you!



July 2015

- Sunday 26th July - rain, hail and shine on National Tree Day, 35 hardy souls, 375 plants, Markham Way/Merton St, Altona Meadows



- Big thank you to Gerard Morel (Melbourne Water) and Libby Rigby (HBCC) for coming - after working at other National Tree Day plantings earlier that day



August 2015

- Sunday 9th August - Hobson's Bay Community Fund Planting Day, 333 plants, \$1000 grant used in planting – near 'Denice Perryman' seat, Merton St/Selwood Place, Altona Meadows



- We welcomed the Findlow family, Ranger Libby Rigby, Colleen Gates and Carl Marsich, our HBCC Wetlands Ward councillors (and Narpinder's maltese crosses) on the day

August 2015 (continued)

- Sunday 23th August – Planting Day, Carshalton Court, Hoppers Crossing - 400 native grasses and 14 volunteers



- Still 'no pass' for Point Cook Rd underpass ... HBCC still working on it



September 2015

- Front page editorial of our September newsletter says it all
- High sediment risk to Creek's delicate biodiversity and Cheetham Wetlands
- Local residents and FoSC not consulted or informed – a PR disaster!
- High rainfall and significant run-off at the time
- Denice writes to the Hallmarc Group developer expressing our disappointment and concerns
- FoSC media release sent to local newspapers – Wyndham Star Weekly runs our story 'Skeleton Creek damming damned'
- John posts about damming on local community Facebook pages
- FoSC Facebook page gets huge lift in 'likes'

Close to Imperfect Way to Treat Our Creek!



The islands

Close to perfect!



The developer at The Islands, Waterhaven Estate, Point Cook, dumped tonnes of earth across Skeleton Creek, effectively blocking it - without first consulting or informing local residents and our Friends group. [Top photo from Hallmarc Developments website, bottom photo courtesy of David Mullins.]

September 2015 (continued)

- Tues 1st Sep - Angela & Denice talk conservation at Wyndham Building Blocks Community Leadership Program
- Sunday 27th Sep - Weeding & Maintenance Day, Catalina Crt and Kerford Cres, Point Cook (diagonally opposite Waterhaven Estate damming!)



October 2015

- Front page editorial of our October newsletter ➔
- 1st Oct, Denice & Angela - on-site meeting with Melbourne Water and Wyndham City Council
- Developer Hallmarc responsible for rehabilitating the site
- Wyndham Star Weekly runs follow-up article (29th Oct) 'Residents damn Skeleton Creek works'
- Time will tell if our Creek will return to previous health and local biodiversity not affected
- 13th Oct, FoSC members in Melbourne Water promotional photoshoot, upstream Skeleton Creek, off Talliver Tce, Trugannina

October 2015 Newsletter

EDITORIAL

After 50 days our Creek is 'Undammed'

On 14th October - 50 days after the unannounced damming of our Creek at 'The Islands' Waterhaven Estate, Point Cook, by the Hallmarc developer - the temporary soil and rock causeway was removed.

The purpose of the earth-filled causeway was to create a sewerage connection from the land development on the northern side of Skeleton Creek (next to the freeway) to the existing sewer point south of the Creek.

The developer could not bore under the Creek bed and bank area to install the sewage pipe, which would have mitigated the risk of stirring up sediment. So the sewage pipe (and two utility holes) was installed deep into the causeway, along with a 600 mm storm-water pipe.

Our Creek Looks a Muddy Mess!



The removal of the causeway by earth-moving equipment has created a lot of mud. [Photo taken by John Dawes on 14th Oct.]



October 2015 (continued)

- Saturday 17th Oct - HBCC
'Friends End of Year Event', Merri Creek
Wetland, guided walk by Ray Radford
(from Merri Creek Management Committee)
- Thanks to Council's Conservation Rangers
Andrew Webster and Suzette Rodoreda
for great day!
- Sunday 25th Oct - Mulching &
Watering Day, Merton St/Markham
Way, Altona Meadows





*A big thank you to all volunteers & council staff for your
efforts in past year
for Friends of Skeleton Creek and Altona Bay Wetlands!*



The End

Several thin, dark, wavy lines on the left side of the slide, resembling stylized grass or reeds.