

FRIENDS OF SKELETON CREEK

Volunteers restoring our local creek



AGM 2017

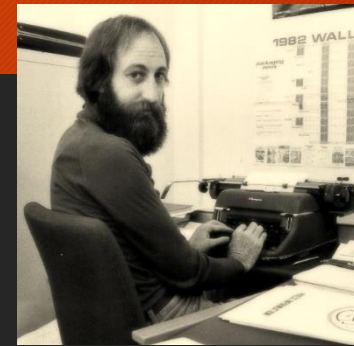
The Committee



Denice Perryman
Secretary



Angela Whiffin
President



John Dawes
**Publicity Officer
& Vice President**



Ewen Cowie
Treasurer

Committee Members: Kristine Konings, John Stirk, Diana Grima

Group Snapshot - 2017

Group name	Friends of Skeleton Creek & Altona Bay Wetlands Inc.
Our aims:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserving, protecting and enhancing the creek and its catchment • Educating the community and schools groups about the creek and the need to conserve it • Enhancing the connection to our community with the environment
Year the group formed	1991 - founders Peter Wlodarczyk, Robin Ho & Elizabeth Causton (early members Denice Perryman and Angela Whiffin)
Municipalities	Wyndham and Hobsons Bay
Email address	friendsofskeletoncrk@gmail.com
Website (NatureWest pages)	http://www.friendsofskeletoncreek.org.au/
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/friendsofskeletoncreek 345 "member likes" @ 26/10/17
Publicity/ promotional platforms	Regular e-newsletter (MailChimp format since Sep 2017, previously PDF) Facebook, NABO neighbourhood webpage, flyers to local schools and NAB employee volunteer co-ord, talks and/or field days at local schools, conservation/community events, local newspaper articles/press releases, community radio
Committee meetings	First Wednesday of month except January, Old Laverton School, Altona Meadows Starting time 7:00 pm
Our sites in 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bromage Close, Hoppers Crossing • Clarendon Court/Point Cook Rd, Seabrook • Creek Waters Close, Altona Meadows • Emu Foot Grassland, Henry Dr/Spicer Blvd, Altona Meadows • Merton St/Markham Way, Altona Meadows

Group Snapshot - 2017 (cont.)

	Friends of Skeleton Creek & Altona Bay Wetlands Inc.
Working Bees	18 activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-working bee preparation - 2 • Stake & guard removal - 3 • Jute mat laying - 2 • Sign rejuvenation/maintenance - 2 • Mulching - 3 • Plantings - 6
No. plants put in	2000
Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melbourne Water Environment Grant - \$10,042 • Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) signage - \$8000 • Melbourne Water Group Support Grant - \$660 • Altona Lions Club - \$250 (Markham Way/Merton St plants) • Hobsons Bay City Council - \$800 (Seabrook Primary School Field Day, plus promotional material) • Wyndham City Council - \$150 (Seniors Festival)
School Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seabrook Primary School field day (Angela, Denice & others) • Truganina South Primary School talk (Angela) • Tarneit Senior College (Denice)
Community Talks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wyndham Council 'Green Series' talk, Point Cook (Denice) • 1st Point Cook Joeys (Denice & Angela) • 'English conversation, new migrants' (Neil Tolliday's group), Altona Library (Denice & Angela) • Wyndham Seniors Week 'Talk & Walk' (Denice & Angela)

Group Snapshot - 2017 (cont.)

	Friends of Skeleton Creek & Altona Bay Wetlands Inc.
Community Representations/ Promotions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hobsons Bay Australia Day, Logan Reserve, Altona • Hobsons Bay Community Expo, Louis Joel Centre, Altona • Wyndham Council's 'Suburbs to Sea' (Green Living Series), Wyndham Civic Centre • Radio interview 88.9 WynFM's 'Life & Style' program (Denice)
Group Social Outings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mt Rothwell, Little River • Lake Elizabeth, Great Otway National Park • McClelland Sculpture Park, Langwarrin • Werribee Gorge picnic & walk • Table Tennis & Afternoon Tea @ Denice's • Anakie Gorge picnic & walk • Australian Garden, Cranbourne
Data Mapping	Ongoing App collaboration development (Wayne Dunn)
Other?	

January 2017

- Friends of Skeleton Creek BBQ & Night Tour of Mt Rothwell, Little River



*Sat 14th Jan -
15 joined the social
outing, a pleasant
and interesting
evening on a full
moon ☺*

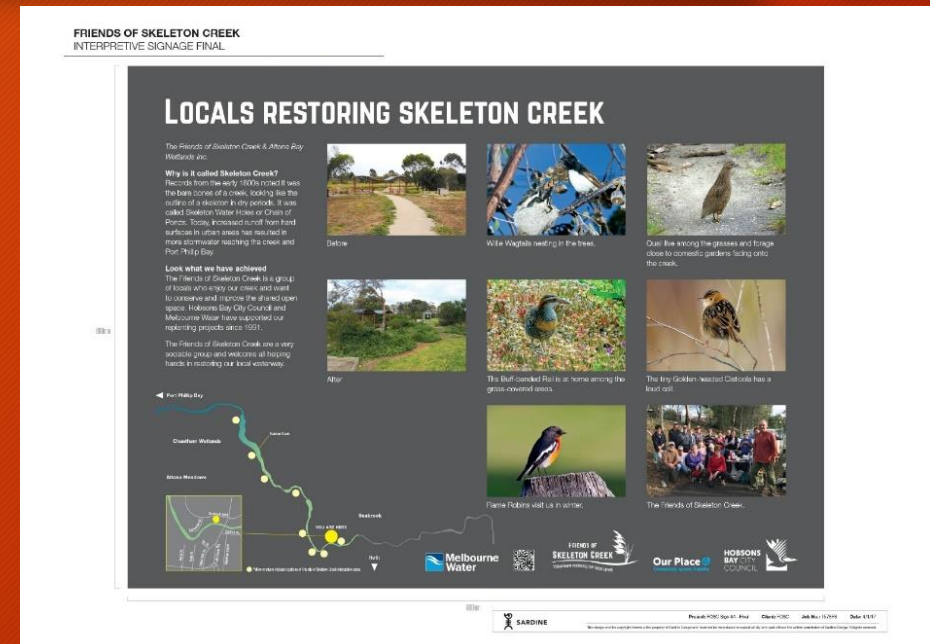
*We saw endangered
Eastern Barred
Bandicoot, Eastern
Quoll, Brush-tailed
Rock-wallaby,
Southern Brown
Bandicoot,
Rufous Bettong,
Long-nosed Potoroo
and Dingo (safely
penned for the
night)!*

January 2017 (cont.)

- Skeleton Creek Interpretive Signage Panels installed !! 😊
- Nine interpretive signs installed west of Point Cook Rd Bridge, Seabrook, to Point Cook Footbridge, Cheetham Wetlands



The picture postcard Ailsa Ave, Altona Meadows, was the site for our photo shoot for the Maribyrnong & Hobsons Bay Star Weekly newspaper.



- FoSC subcommittee, incl Bob Winters (flora and fauna contents provider) completed the signage with HBCC's Senior Conservation Ranger Andrew Webster and HBCC's conservation and communications departments, along with Hayden Goodall of Sardine graphics studio.
- Special 'thank you' to HBCC's Wetlands Ward councillors Colleen Gates and Carl Marsich who enabled the funding.
- Signage to benefit the community in educating and enhancing their experience of the creek.

January 2017 (cont.)

- Altona Australia Day Promotion
- Guards & Stakes Removal Day, Bromage Close, Hoppers Crossing



26th Jan Australia Day - a colourful crew (John D, Kristine & Denice) promoting the Friends of Skeleton Creek (and BayWest Bicycle Users Group) at Logan Reserve, Altona, Australia Day Eco Marquee table.



Tue 31st Jan - Bromage Close, guards & stakes removal day, one of our unscheduled activities, 10 volunteers with Wyndham Council's Darren Wright.



As always, Denice Perryman's lunch or afternoon tea is always welcomed after the day's activity.

February 2017

- Working bees galore! *(several unscheduled)*



Tue 4th Feb - Bromage Close, Hoppers Crossing, new planting preparations, jute matting - 70 m extension north of our previous plantings.



Thu 9th Feb - Clarendon Court/Point Cook Rd, Seabrook, guards & stakes removal day. One of our 9 new interpretive signs located here - aptly titled 'Locals Restoring Skeleton Creek'.



Sun 26th Feb - Creek Waters Close and Markham Way/ Merton St, Altona Meadows.

Another guards & stakes removal day, 12 FoSC volunteers, supported by HBCC Ranger Libby Rigby.

March 2017

- Bromage Close preparations, Frogs, 'Suburbs to Sea', and Sculptures



Tue 7th Mar - Bromage Close, Hoppers Crossing, supervised by Wyndham Council's Darren Wright, contractor Frank Camilleri moves boulders, ready for our next mulching day (also pictured Shane, Angela, and photographer Denice in a shadow selfie ☺)



Fri 17th Mar - Friends of Skeleton Creek at Wyndham Council's 'Suburbs to Sea' (Green Living Series), Wyndham Civic Centre.

Organised by Wyndham Council and Bruce Boddington (Point Cook Open Spaces), featuring Port Phillip Bay documentary - 'Melbourne Down Under'.

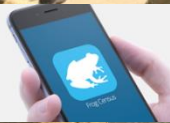
March 2017 (cont.)

- Frogs, Sculptures, Bromage Close Working Bee



Frog Census App

Get involved in the Frog Census, a community frog monitoring program



Sat 18th Mar - 'The Frogs of Wyndham', Denice speaks at a Wyndham Council's Green Series talk along the creek at Point Cook, with Wyndham's Maddie Veale and Melbourne Water's James Frazer (Frog Census App).



Wed 22nd Mar - FoSC social excursion to the McClelland Sculpture Park+Gallery in Langwarrin, near Frankston. Our guide Gus provided a wonderful insight into the sculptures.



Sun 26th Mar - Bromage Close, new 70 m extension, 18 volunteers spread many loads of mulch delivered by Wyndham City Council Open Space Officers, Darren and Sal.



April 2017

- Signage Rejuvenation, Emu Foot Grassland, Seabrook Primary Field Day, FoSC Excursion, Hobsons Bay Community Expo



*Tue 11th Apr
- Labassa
Way/ Bowood
Ct, Seabrook,
old signage
rejuvenation
and planting,
8 volunteers
incl 1 young
helper.*



*Sun 23rd Apr -
Emu Foot
Grassland,
Altona Meadows
- our new site,
7 volunteers
spread crushed
rock and mulch.*



April 2017 (cont.)

- Seabrook Primary Field Day, FoSC Excursion, Hobsons Bay Community Expo



Mon 24th Apr - Seabrook Primary School Field Day, organised by FoSC President Angela Whiffin, Ewen Cowie & other helpers - water bug investigations and plantings with 150 kids.



*Wed 26th/
Thu 27th
Apr - FoSC
Excursion,
Lake
Elizabeth,
Great Otway
National
Park, 6 FoSC
members
(Wren, Kay,
Vicki,
Wayne,
Denice &
Anne),
overnight
stay at
Wonky Stable
Holiday Park.*



29th Apr - 11th May, FoSC showcased at the Hobsons Bay Community Information Expo, Louis Joel Centre, Altona.

May 2017

- National Volunteer Week, FoSC Excursion, Emu Foot Grassland Planting Day



Tue 9th May - National Volunteer Week morning tea at the Wyndham City Council Chambers, to celebrate and acknowledge the contribution of Wyndham's volunteers.



Wed 17th May - FoSC excursion, Werribee Gorge, picnic and walk.



May 2017 (cont.)

- Emu Foot Grassland Planting Day



Sun 28th May - Emu Foot Grassland, Altona Meadows, planting day a good turnout of volunteers (despite the wintry weather).



June 2017

- 1st Point Cook Joeys, World Environment Day, Truganina South Primary School talk, Back-to-Back Planting Days at Bromage Close



Mon 5th Jun - FoSC Secretary Denice Perryman and President Angela Whiffin put on a conservation-themed puppet show for 1st Point Cook Joeys at Jamieson Way Community Centre. A fun night, kids fully engaged; invited by FoSC volunteer and 1st Point Cook Joeys leader Matt Nielsen.



Mon 5th Jun - FoSC members at Hobsons Bay City Council's World Environment Day evening celebration of local environment groups at The Planetarium, Scienceworks, Spotswood. Theme of the evening - 'Connecting People with Nature'. Our group represented by John Dawes, Kristine Konings, John Stirk, and Catherine Curtain. Canapes and drinks served.

Mon 19th Jun - Angela Whiffin gave a talk to Truganina South Primary School students down the creek, near the viaduct.

Kids inspired by the habitat of the Growling Grass Frog, teacher Stewart Spencer very grateful.

June 2017 (cont.)

- Back-to-Back Planting Days at Bromage Close



Tue 13th Jun - midweek planting, Bromage Close, site previously prepared by mulching, jute matting, and boulder placement. Five new faces, incl little helper who came with mum Belinda. Extra hands from Wyndham conservation staff, incl two enthusiastic trainees (first day on the job).

Sun 25th Jun - back at Bromage Close, fixing jute matting, planting around 800 native grasses and ground covers between the boulders. 18 volunteers, incl Wyndham Conservation Rangers Darren and Sal; Denice Perryman absent on a well-deserved break, a walking tour in the WA Kimberley.



July 2017

- New Banners, Social Table Tennis @ Denice's, Planting at Bromage Close, Frog Friends

Our new banners unveiled, funded through a HBCC educational/promotional grant:



Steel A-Frame, corflute insert, 600 mm x 900 mm



Feather Drop banner, 2200 mm tall



Double-sided vinyl banner, 2000 mm x 1000 mm



July 2017 (cont.)

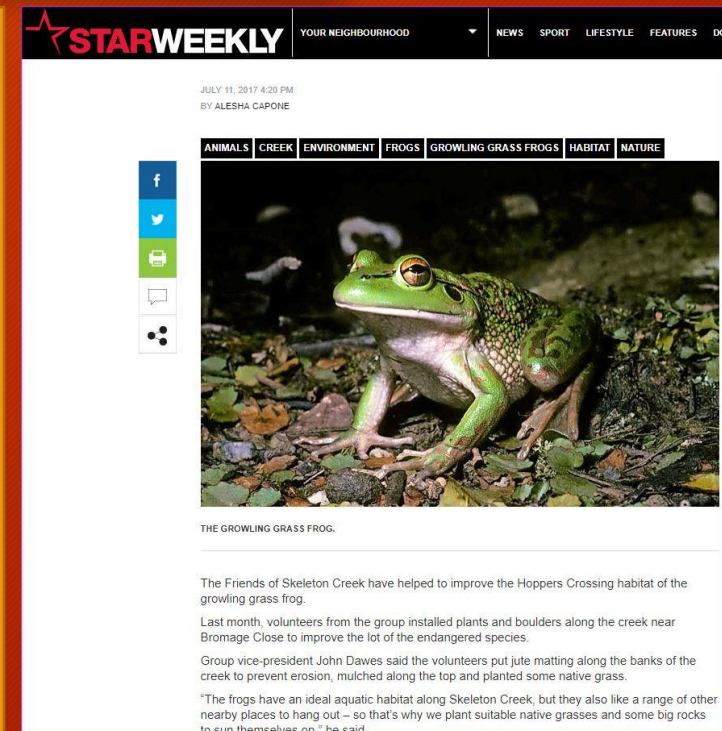
- Social Table Tennis @ Denice's, Planting at Bromage Close, Frog Friends



Sat 22nd Jul - Table Tennis & Afternoon tea @ Denice's. Nick Clark the modest comp winner in the playoff with Denice, while some rusty players showed potential; an afternoon of food, frivolity and fun.



Sun 23rd Jul - Bromage Close plantings, guards & stakes day, rain gods not kind, thanks to the hardy 25 volunteers incl 1st Hoppers Crossing Scouts and 1st Laverton Scouts & Guides. Too wet for afternoon tea outside so accepted Sonya Findlow's kind offer of her place closeby.



Wyndham Star Weekly - another article about our volunteering efforts along Skeleton Creek, for the endangered Growling Grass Frog.

August 2017

- FoSC Excursion, Emu Foot Grassland, Government House Invitation



Tue 22nd Aug - FoSC Excursion, Anakie Gorge, Brisbane Ranges, Wrenford & Kaye Brown, Vicki Dunn, John Stirk and Denice. Lots of birds including wattle birds and laughing kookas, interesting flora, especially wattle in flower, after walk a bush BBQ organised by Wren.



Sun 27th Aug - Emu Foot Grassland, a chilly 4-seasons-in-one day! Thanks to 10 volunteers, incl new young helper Annabelle and her dad, we put in 300 native plants at this protected site.

We also planted, staked & guarded around the new Hobsons Bay Council interpretive sign. The colourful sign illustrates how grasslands provide habitat for a variety of rare species - such as the Chocolate Lily, Windmill Grass, Emu Foot Grass, Wallaby Grass, and Tall Bluebell.

August 2017 (cont.)

- Government House Invitation, celebrating a 'sense of community and achievements'



Tuesday, 29th Aug - FoSC Secretary Denice Perryman personally invited by the Governor of Victoria, Her Excellency Linda Dessau, to celebrate Melbourne western suburbs "sense of community and achievements". John Dawes, FoSC Vice President/Publicity Officer, tagged along as Denice's guest and minder. Denice and John mingled with Ralph Humphries (Hobsons Bay Citizen of the Year 2017), Joan Lynn, and Nick & Marilyn Olliff (Friends of Williamstown Wetlands) (pictured). Later, invited into other rooms at Government House, including the State Dining Room but no banquet this time! Denice and John represented all the volunteers who've contributed to our group's conservation achievements. ☺

September 2017

- Tarneit Senior College, Radio WynFM, Bromage Close mulching

Mon 11th Sep - Denice spoke to a Year 9 group from Tarneit Senior College about our revegetation work along the creek, organised through environmental studies teacher Tom Cleeland, who was very grateful to Denice.

88.9
WynFM

Mon 18th Sep - promotion, promotion! Denice Perryman on the airways talking all things Skeleton Creek - radio 88.9 WynFM's 'Life & Style' program.

Denice has a future as a community radio announcer!



Sun 24th Sep - a windy afternoon at Bromage Close but our intrepid 11 volunteers spread 8 truckloads of mulch under the direction of Sal, our Wyndham Council conservation officer. Nice to see some new volunteers. The welcomed afternoon tea provided by Denice Perryman was a reward for effort.



October 2017

- Wyndham Seniors Festival, Australian Garden Excursion, Tree Vandalism, HBCC's Friends Day Out, Clarendon Crt weeding day, and Markham Way mulching day

Friends of Skeleton Creek present ... Introduction to Conservation



CONSERVATION IN THE SENIOR YEARS

Sunday 8th October, 1 pm,
by the Creek, Bromage
Close, Hoppers Crossing

[Melway Map 203, B11]

– Introduction by the Friends of Skeleton Creek
– talk about conservation in Wyndham by Darren Wright, Wyndham City Council Open Space Community Education Officer
– mulch spreading, walk and afternoon tea

Contact Friends of Skeleton Creek Secretary,
Denice Perryman, on
9315 8072 / 0429 167 013 or
email: deniceperryman1@gmail.com

*Sun 8th Oct -
Wyndham Seniors
Festival, Denice &
Angela do a talk
& walk
for a
small
group of
seniors.*



Tues 10th Oct - FoSC excursion to Australian Garden, Cranbourne, a stunning landscape that showcases the beauty and diversity of Australian flora. We completed our walkabout with a picnic on a perfect sunny day.



Friends of Skeleton Creek & Altona Bay Wetlands Inc.

15 October at 22:30 · 🌐

Yes, a disgraceful act of vandalism with no regard to a valuable outdoor community asset for everyone to enjoy!



Tree hacking a 'disgraceful' act - Star Weekly

By Goya Dmytryshchak Tree vandalism and graffiti around Skeleton Creek ...

STARWEEKLY.COM.AU

👤 724 people reached

Boost Post

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share

👤 Catherine Curtain, Carolyn Meadows and 22 others

Chronological ▾

*At our
planting site,
two trees at
Carinza
Reserve
picnic facility
hacked with
axe, reported
to us by
HBCC Senior
Ranger
Andrew
Webster.
Star Weekly
Journalist
Goya
contacts us
for comment.
John Dawes
follows up
and article
published.*

October 2017 (cont.)

- HBCC's Friends Day Out, Clarendon Crt weeding day, and Markham Way mulching day



Sat 14th Oct - Hobsons Bay Council's Annual Friends Groups Day Out - we were treated to a talk and tour of the Werribee Treatment Plant, incl bird watching, followed by a delicious catered lunch at Melbourne Water's visitor centre. Thank you HBCC and Ranger Libby Rigby for organising it all. Well done!



Tues 17th Oct - Clarendon Crt/Point Cook Rd Bridge, Seabrook, hand weeding on our sloping planting site, supported by HBCC Ranger Libby Rigby. Cold water during working bee and soup and rolls provided for lunch by Denice Perryman appreciated ☺



Sun 22nd Oct - A small group of volunteers helped on a mulch moving and spreading day at our established planting site - just off Skeleton Creek Trail, Markham Way, Altona Meadows.

That was our FoSC 'Year that Was'



A big 'thank you' to all our volunteers, conservation rangers and staff at Hobsons Bay and Wyndham councils and Melbourne Water (you know who you are), with special mention to Denice Perryman for putting in our grant applications and putting on the welcomed afternoon teas!

... but wait, there's more! 😊

Your volunteering at our conservation 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 and involved with our group.

Membership is effective from the AGM date of 1st November 2017 through to the next AGM and renewal date of 1st November 2018.

Why not sign up tonight? Ask our friendly treasurer Ewen for a membership form 😊

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Friends of Skeleton Creek & Altona Bay Wetlands Inc.

1. Personal Information

(Please write neatly)

Family Name: _____ Given Name: _____ Male / Female

Address: _____

Contacts: (mobile) _____ (home) _____ (work) _____

E-mail: _____

2. Membership Categories

Please tick your category:

☐ \$10.00 Individual Membership/Mailing List

☐ \$15.00 Family/Mailing List

* Yearly membership becomes due each November, to coincide with the AGM

If a family category, please list all names this membership covers:

3. Payment Options

There are 2 methods of payment:

☐ By cash to the Treasurer

☐ Bank Direct Deposit:

Account Name: Friends of Skeleton Creek

(Commonwealth Bank of Australia) BSB: 063101 Account No: 10082311

* Please use your full name as a reference when submitting via direct deposit

4. Member Signature

SIGNED: _____ DATE: __/__/__

5. Membership Form Submittal

This completed application form with the membership cash payment can be handed to the treasurer Ewen Cowie, or if you have paid by bank direct deposit you can scan and email to friendsofskeletoncrk@gmail.com or post to:

Friends of Skeleton Creek & Altona Bay Wetlands Inc.
12 Hopetoun Crt
Altona Meadows 3028

Date Received: __/__/__ Membership added to FOSC Register: __/__/__

Any enquiries, please contact FOSC Treasurer:
Ewen Cowie on 93158603 or 0412887938

Feb 2016