

FRIENDS OF SKELETON CREEK



Volunteers restoring our local creek



AGM 2018

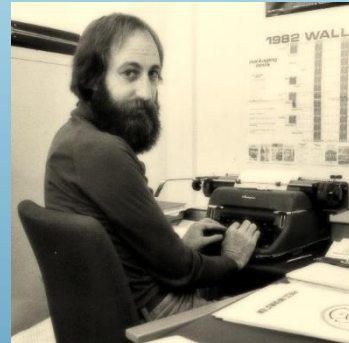
THE COMMITTEE



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 - 2018

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 446 followers @ 30 Oct 2018 (345 followers this time last year)
Publicity/ promotional platforms	Facebook, Nabo neighbourhood webpage, 'About Us' flyer, working bee advertising/flyers to local schools, talks and/or field days at local schools, conservation/community events, local newspaper articles/press releases
Committee meetings	First Wednesday of month (except January), Old Laverton School, Altona Meadows (temporarily at Denice's home while Old Laverton School renovated) Starting time 7:00 pm
Our sites in 2017/2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bromage Close, Hoppers Crossing • Carinza Reserve, Altona Meadows • Clarendon Court/Point Cook Rd, Seabrook • Emu Foot Grassland, Henry Dr/Spicer Blvd, Altona Meadows • Merton St/Markham Way, Altona Meadows

GROUP SNAPSHOT – 2018 (CONT.)

	Friends of Skeleton Creek & Altona Bay Wetlands Inc.
Working Bees	15 activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stake & guard removal - 1 • Jute mat laying - 1 • Sign rejuvenation/maintenance – 1 • Clean-up Australia Day - 1 • Mulching - 5 • Plantings - 6
Qty plants put in	2400
Grants (some still running from 2017)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melbourne Water Environment Grant - \$9,702 • Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) signage for Emu Foot Grassland - \$8000 • Melbourne Water Group Support Grant - \$880 • Altona Lions Club - \$250 (Markham Way/Merton St plants) • Hobsons Bay City Council - \$250 (Seabrook Primary School Field Day, Carinza Reserve)
School Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seabrook Primary School field day (Angela, Denice & others) • Tarneit Senior College (Denice & Angela)
Community Representations/ Promotions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hobsons Bay World Environment Day Community Festival, Williamstown Town Hall • 'The Frogs of Skeleton Creek', in conjunction with Melbourne Water and Wyndham City Council
Interpretive Signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emu Foot Grassland – panels in development: 'Saving our Wildflowers' and 'War on Weeds', funded by DELWP, managed by HBCC, Bob Winters content designer, in collaboration with FoSC • Replacement of old Wyndham signage along Skeleton Creek + extra signs upstream in development (incl. funding), in liaison with Rebecca Bond, Environment & Water, WCC, and Melbourne Water

GROUP SNAPSHOT – 2018 (CONT.)

	Friends of Skeleton Creek & Altona Bay Wetlands Inc.
Group Social Outings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hobsons Bay Council/FoSC Spring Bird Walk along Skeleton Creek (Nov 2017)• Austplant Nursery & Gardens and 'Eagle' gondola ride, Arthurs Seat• The Organ Pipes National Park, Keilor• Limeburners Bay/Hovells Creek, and International Wildlife Photography Exhibition, Wool Museum, Geelong• Kevin Hoffman Walk, Lara, and BYO lunch at Werribee Park• Domino Rail Trail Walk - Lyonville to Trentham• Serendip Sanctuary, Lara• National Rhododendron Gardens, Olinda• Marysville and Healesville, 2-day/overnight stay
Group Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 'Our Objectives', group focussed strategies, priorities, expected outcomes• 'How To' roles & responsibilities of committee members• Working Bee Activities Calendar, in conjunction with HBCC & WCC Conservation Rangers
Data Mapping Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Our Pozi web map [using Interactive Geographic Information System (GIS) location-based mapping], a Wayne Dunn project in development - https://go.pozi.com/#/15j82k

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2017 (POST AGM)



Sun 26th Nov - laying down jute mats, Bromage Close, for 2018. Hard work on the knees!



Tue 14th Nov - Hobsons Bay Council/FoSC Spring Bird Walk along Skeleton Creek, Andrew Webster guide, picnic at Creek Waters Close.



Wed 6th Dec - Christmas breakup dinner meeting at Denice's home. A sumptuous feast!

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2018



Wed 17th Jan – Social outing at Austplant Nursery & Gardens, Arthurs Seat, Mornington Peninsula, then a ride on the Eagle Gondola!



Tue 6th Feb – Removal of stakes and guards from last year's planting, Bromage Close, Hoppers Crossing, with Darren and Sal from Wyndham Council.



Sun 25th Feb - working bee, Markham Way/Merton St, Altona Meadows, weeding, watering, rubbish collection, planting preparation – and, of course, afternoon tea provided by Denice.

FEBRUARY 2018 (CONT.)

Skeleton Creek – 'Source to Sea' Tour

Sun 4th Feb – 'Source to Sea' bus tour, 25 FoSC members and supporters. Tour leaders Andrew Webster (Senior Ranger, HBCC) and Gerard Morel (River Health Officer, Melbourne Water). Tour points of interest: the creek's source - Mt Atkinson (a low lava cone), north of Middle Rd, Truganina; Dry Creek, converges with Skeleton Creek; Wildwood Place, Tarneit Creek, constructed wetlands environment; picnic lunch at the new Talliver Terrace Park, Truganina; ending the tour at Sanctuary Lakes and the Cheetham Wetlands.



MARCH 2018



Fri 2nd Mar - Trivia night at the Wyndham Civic Centre, as part of Wyndham Council's Green Living Series (organised by Bruce Boddington and John Forrester).

And the winning table was ... Friends of Skeleton Creek!
Thanks to Catherine Curtain and Nick Clark, who really had all the right answers!



Sun 4th Mar - joint 'Clean Up Australia Day', organised by Bruce Boddington (Point Cook Open Spaces), along Skeleton Creek, behind the commercial area of Wallace Ave, heavily laden with all sorts of dumped industrial and household rubbish – three truck loads to the Wyndham Council tip! We also helped along Tarneit Creek (a tributary of Skeleton Creek).



MARCH 2018 (CONT.)



Sun 25th Mar
- Bromage Close, a challenging windy day to spread mulch, do weeding and rubbish clean up - followed by a relaxing afternoon tea provided by Denice.



Graffited!! One of our 9 educational interpretive signs, 'Caring for Country', located at the Skeleton Creek picnic/playground, between Creek Water Cl and Vista Ct, Altona Meadows.



Wed 14th Mar - FoSC excursion to The Organ Pipes National Park, Keilor North. Tessellated Pavement and a walk upstream to the Rosette Rock - a radial array of basalt columns.



APRIL 2018



Sat 21st Apr - Wyndham's Nature Play Week, our joint frog activity with Melbourne Water, Skeleton Creek, Bromage Close Reserve. Low turnout, but the three little ones enthused by zoologist Christina Renowden's descriptions and recorded sounds of frogs in the creek - Growling Grass Frog, Eastern Banjo Frog, Spotted Marsh Frog, Striped Marsh Frog, and Eastern Common Froglet.



Sun 29th Apr - FoSC & BayWest BUG Social Excursion to Limeburners Bay, Hovells Creek, a Ramsar bird habitat area, followed by International Wildlife Photography Exhibition, at the National Wool Museum, Geelong.



Sun 22nd Apr - mulch spreading day at Emu Foot Grassland, incl a lesson by HBCC Ranger Libby Rigby about which ones are the invasive grasses and which ones are not, such as the Emu Foot!



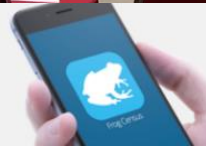
MAY 2018

Wed 2nd May – 'The Frogs of Skeleton Creek', Wyndham Civic Centre, presented by ecologist David De Angelis. His PowerPoint presentation included the identifying sounds of each frog species along the creek. He praised our work, creating a habitat for the endangered Growling Grass Frog at Bromage Reserve. David also plugged Melbourne Water's Frog Census App. We also had our monthly meeting beforehand at the centre.



Frog Census App

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



Tue 8th May - Seabrook Primary School field day, Carinza Ave, Altona Meadows, funded by HBCC grant, organised by Angela and HBCC Ranger Libby Rigby. Ewen pre-watered, Angela and Denice took students through water bug identification and creek water quality. Some 130 plants put, though the deep mulch hampered the efforts of the kids.



Fri 11th May – Mulch spreading at Emu Foot Grassland. Forecast **Antarctica** weather ... even die-hard Denice Perryman, who's never cancelled a FoSC event in our 27-year history, was wavering. But, alas, the weather gods were with us – we finished just before the chilly, wild weather hit! Thanks to Denice for hot soup back at her warm comfy home :)



MAY 2018 (CONT.)



Boulders moved into place at Emu Foot Grassland – a great addition to the landscape, ready for our planting day on Sun 27th May. Thanks to the Hobsons Bay Council conservation crew and contractor Frank on the bobcat to make it happen.



Sun 27th May - our first planting for 2018, Emu Foot Grassland. We had 22 volunteers putting in 500 plants previously mulched on 22nd Apr and 11th May.



Tue 22nd May – As we did last year, we attended the National Volunteer Week morning tea at the Wyndham City Council Chambers, to celebrate and acknowledge the contribution of Wyndham's volunteers.

JUNE 2018



Sun 3rd Jun – Denise 'Flying the Flag' for Friends of Skeleton Creek at the Hobsons Bay World Environment Day Community Festival, Williamstown Town Hall.



Sat 23rd Jun – Social excursion to the Kevin Hoffman Walk - a scenic garden trail along Hovells Creek, Lara. The garden is planted with mostly Australian native plants, some locally indigenous - a garden for the community, maintained by volunteers. We later had a BYO lunch at Werribee Park.



JUNE 2018 (CONT.)



Tue 26th Jun – Planting 'left-overs' from our Seabrook Primary School field day at Carinza Ave Reserve, followed by putting in 40+ bigger plants and seedling trees (donated from an Altona Lions Club grant), Markham Way and Merton St. Thanks to HBCC Ranger Libby filling in at short notice. We welcomed new helper Guisela.

Sun 24th Jun – 24 volunteers, some young ones too, turning up to put in 600 plants at Bromage Close! A lot of enthusiasm the planting, guards & stakes installation, and watering. As usual, a rewarding afternoon tea was provided by FoSC secretary Denice Perryman.



JULY 2018



Vandals were at it again along Skeleton Creek in Altona Meadows! One of our nine educational interpretive signs titled 'Living with Wildlife' - located in a solid foundation opposite Ascot St South was ripped out. Thanks to Hobsons Bay Council, the sign has since been replaced.



Fri 20th Jul – Along with HBCC Ranger Clem Daw, a small crew for our planting working bee at Emu Foot Grassland, we put in 150 small plants and grasses, such as the *Craspedia variabilis* (Billy Button), a herb which will grow to 50 cm tall and bear a large round yellow 'button flower'.



Sun 22nd Jul - A great turnout of 36 volunteers for our alternative National Tree Day (officially the following Sunday) at Bromage Close. We put in 600 native plants and grasses. Our volunteers included a welcoming number of Joeys, Cubs and Scouts - also Joanne Ryan, Federal Member for Lalor. Bruce Boddington, our 'Litter Warrior' friend of Point Cook Open Spaces was there, with his obligatory rubbish bag in hand ☺ [Congrats Bruce, too, in the 2018 Wyndham Community Volunteer Awards, winner in the Environment & Sustainability category.]

AUGUST 2018



'Please Do Not Feed the Birds' - one of two new signs put up along the creek by the HBCC conservation team at our group's request, after seeing people feeding birds, usually bread. This sign is opposite the 'Denice Perryman Seat', near Selwood Place, Altona Meadows, the other is east side of Point Cook Road Bridge [photo by Bernita Grech]



Sun 26th Aug - Emu Foot Grassland, last tree planting activity for the season, 600 plants put in. We had new FoSC members Paula, Mahesh and family, with HBCC Ranger Libby on hand to provide all the tools to get the job done.

AUGUST 2018 (CONT.)

STARWEEKLY YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD ▼ NEWS SPORT LIFESTYLE FEATURES LOCAL BUSINESS DOMAIN

MARIBYRNONG & HOBSONS BAY

From plastic to fantastic

AUGUST 14, 2018 2:45 PM
BY GOYA DMYTRYSHCHAK



DENISE PERRYMAN FROM FRIENDS OF SKELETON CREEK AND CR COLLEEN GATES ON THE PARTH MADE WITH RECYCLED PLASTIC. PHOTO: DAMJAN JANEVSKI

Recycled plastic fibres have been transformed into a section of the Skeleton Creek Trail at Seabrook.

Hobsons Bay council is the first in Victoria to trial a product called Emesh produced by Fibercon, which upcycles plastic to make reinforced concrete.

An 80-metre section of trail was made with concrete reinforced by 120 kilograms of recycled plastic fibres instead of steel reinforcement mesh.

Melbourne Water's Community Grants program.
Volunteer community groups play an important role in protecting and improving local rivers and creeks.

Community Grants 2018/19

Guidelines for Applications



Applying for a grant



SEPTEMBER 2018



Sun 9th Sep - FoSC and BayWest Bicycle Users Group (BUG) combined social activity, Domino Rail Trail Walk. An easy 6 km walk (but no bike riding) from Lyonville to Trentham, with lunch at the Red Beard Historic Bakery in Trentham.



Sun 16th Sep – FoSC Excursion, with BayWest BUG, to Serendip Sanctuary, Lara. A walk through the wildlife reserve among the animals and birds, sighting such as the Bush Stone Curlew (photo by Catherine Curtain), then lunch at Espresso Blu, then a short drive to Roraima Nursery. A great day out!



SEPTEMBER 2018 (CONT.)



Sun 23rd Sep – Bromage Close, mulching afternoon, 11 volunteers getting it done in super short time, due to not enough mulch being delivered!



Fri 28th Sep – joint FoSC and BayWest BUG social activity to the Rhododendron Gardens, Olinda, Dandenong Ranges. Heavily rained on our parade, unfortunately, but not our enthusiasm, as we still made most of the coloured blooms of rhododendrons, magnolias, camellias, cherries and daffodils.



OCTOBER 2018



Sat 13th Oct – Hobsons Bay City Council's 'End of Year Friends Groups' Day Out'. HBCC Rangers Frank Fardell, Andrew Webster and Clem Daw bussed us around to conservation sites within the municipality that do not have Friends' groups and little known sites, such as Horsburgh Drive Grassland Reserve, Altona. We were treated to morning tea at Cherry Lake and later a catered-for lunch at the Truganina Explosive Reserve, Altona. The invitation was to active Friends' member volunteers and as a 'thank you' from the council and the conservation crew.



Sun 28th Oct – Mulch spreading, Carinza Reserve, 18 volunteers, wheel barrowing and spread a mountain of mulch, to soften the hard ground for planting at this site next year. Great to have three young ones to help, along with HBCC Senior Conservation Ranger Andrew Webster (filling-in for Libby). We rounded out the afternoon with a welcome afternoon tea provided by our hard-working FoSC Secretary Denise Perryman.

OCTOBER 2018 (CONT.)



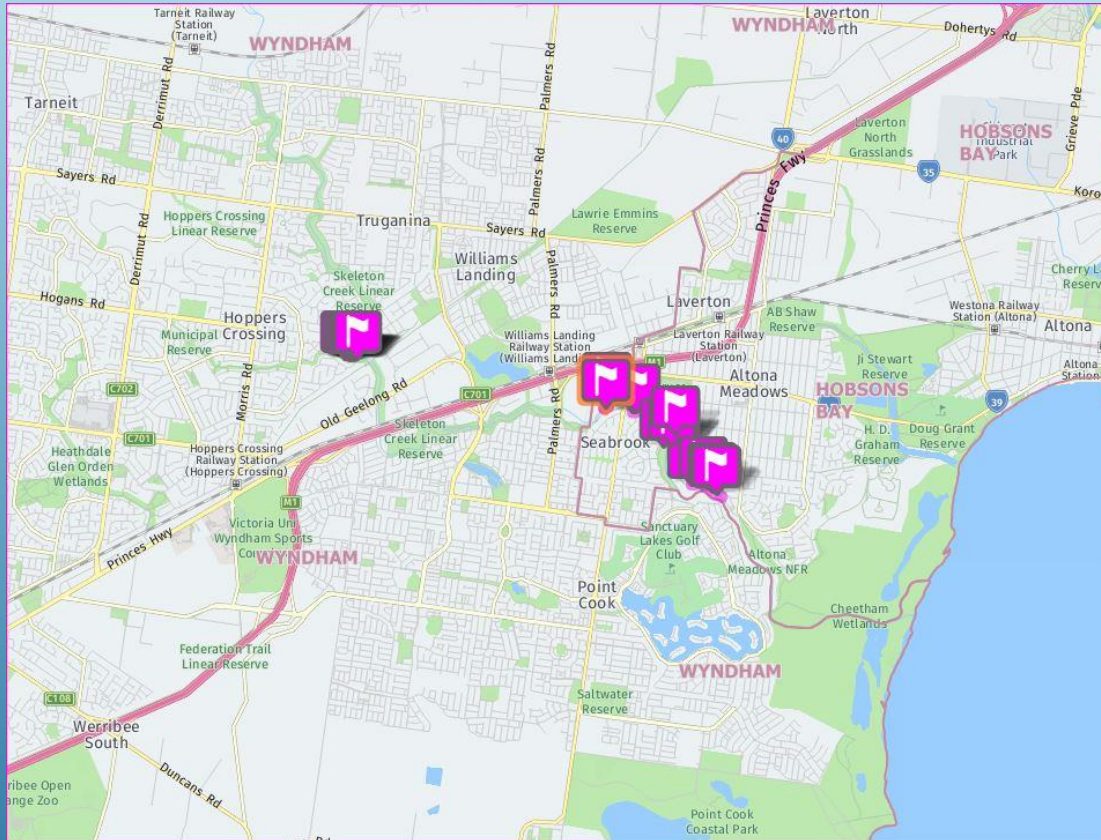
Tue 30th Oct – Wed 31st Oct, Marysville and Healesville social activity. Couldn't pick better weather for the members' group activity over the two days (incl. an overnight stay), visiting Healesville Sanctuary, Maroondah Reservoir, Bruno's Art & Sculpture Garden, finishing with a 9 km return walk to Steavenson Falls - where we saw colourful birds galore :)



Coming up - one more mulching/ maintenance working bee at Bromage Close on **Sun 25th Nov** to finish off another productive and social year for our group!



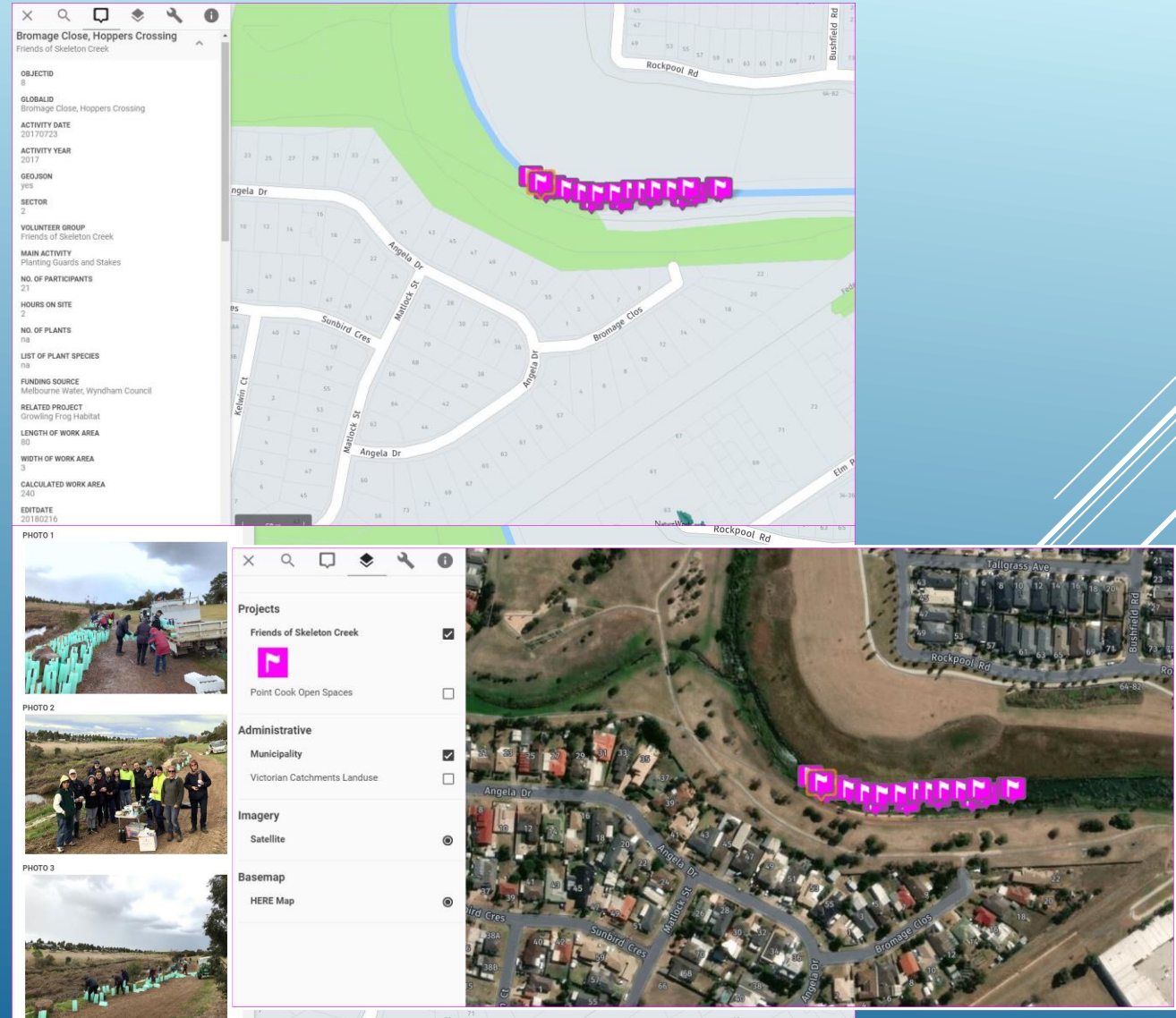
POZI MAPPING



Mapping and recording our activities through Pozi - a Geographic Information System (GIS) and hosted web map solution developed for councils.

This system helps users to visualise our group's activities, such as precise working bee location and all other information required, incl photos, in a powerful interactive web map.

Wayne Dunn, a retired Navy Hydrographic Surveyor, is our Pozi Mapping expert leader.



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, WITH SPECIAL MENTION TO DENICE PERRYMAN FOR LODGING OUR GRANT APPLICATIONS AND PUTTING ON ALL THE WELCOMED AFTERNOON TEAS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR!

... 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 7th Nov 2018 through to the next AGM and renewal date of 6th Nov 2019.

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) _____

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
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

2018-2019