

*As we gather for this meeting physically dispersed and
virtually constructed, let us take a moment to reflect
the meaning of place and doing so recognise the
various traditional lands on which we do our business
today.*

*We acknowledge the Elders – past, present, and
emerging of all the land we work and live on and their
Ancestral Spirits with gratitude and respect.*

FRIENDS OF
SKELETON CREEK



AGM presents

THE YEAR THAT WAS

(VERY UNPRECEDENTED)

2020

THE COMMITTEE



Angela Whiffen
President



Denice Perryman
Secretary



Ewen Cowie
Treasurer



Ahried Isorena
Publicity Officer

Committee Members :
John Stirk, Diana Grima, Wayne Dunn

GROUP SNAP SHOT 2020

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 589 page likes @ 27 Oct 2020 (523 this time last year)
Publicity/Promotional Platforms	-
Committee meetings	First Wednesday of month (except January) via ZOOM at 7:00 pm
Our sites in 2019/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bromage Close, Hoppers Crossing• Emu Foot Grassland, Henry Dr/Spicer Blvd, Altona Meadows

GROUP SNAP SHOT 2020

GROUP NAME	FRIENDS OF SKELETON CREEK & ALTONA BAY WETLANDS INC.
Working bees	Total : 2 working bees
Qty plants put in	2000
Grants 2019/2020	Melbourne Water
School groups	-
Community representations/ Promotions	-
Interpretive Signage	-
Group Social Outings	-
Group planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Information session @ Lan Ave bridge, Altona Meadows
Committee Roles	'How To Role' documented for Secretary/Group Organiser; President/Plant Purchaser; Treasurer; Publicity Officer/Assistant Secretary; Data Manager Officer

NOVEMBER 2019



Sunday 25th November

A perfect weather day, we welcomed three new volunteers who came to help us do maintenance at our **Bromage Close site in Hoppers Crossing**. Sal from Wyndham Council was on hand to load up his work ute and water the native plants and grasses.

Another "attendee" (pictured) at this Growling Grass Frog habitat we identified as a **Green and Golden Bell Frog**.

DECEMBER 2019

Promotional Panel installed

Securely installed at **Carinza Reserve, Altona Meadows** - our new graphic promotional panel inside our Information Board (next to the Rotary Club of Laverton Point Cook rotunda), which replaces having to pin notices there. Thanks to **Andrew Webster, HBCC Senior Conservation Ranger**, for organising the work with **HBCC maintenance man Michael**. Graphic panel artwork was produced by **Rob Mancini of Evergreen Design**, who also produced our brilliant new brochures.



Monday 9th December – Little Litters Trackers

At Lan Ave footbridge in Seabrook, we threw plastic bottles into Skeleton Creek, with the help of students from **Seabrook Primary School** !

5 GPS-equipped bottles were being tracked to see where they finish up.

Led by **Dr Kavitha Chinathamby**, an **RMIT Aquatic Scientist**.

JANUARY 2020



Wednesday 8th January

Summer by the Sea

Three members from our FoSC group took part in this event. They got to see some of our resident and migratory birds including a **sharp-tailed sandpiper, red-kneed dotterels, white-faced herons and pelicans**. This activity increases awareness of the important estuary habitats within Hobsons Bay. Thanks to **HBCC Conservation Rangers, Andrew Webster and Suzette Rodoreda** for organising it.



FEBRUARY 2020

Monday 3rd February

Under parental supervision, all six surviving cygnets were testing their wings in the breeze, Skeleton Creek, Altona Meadows.



Sunday 23rd February

A warm sunny day for our first working bee of the year at the remnant Emu Foot Grassland in Altona Meadows. We had 13 volunteers including 5 new helping hands to do weeding and mulching. Thank you also to **Suzette Rodoreda**, our cheerful Hobsons Bay Council conservation ranger.

MARCH 2020



Resignation of John Dawes & Kristine Konings from the Committee

It is hard to overestimate what John and Kristine have contributed to the good governance and professional running of our group. They will be sorely missed with a great legacy behind them.

BUT with sad endings comes with greater beginnings, seeing the first year of their delightful grandson Bill.

APRIL 2020



Photos of our Emu Foot Grasslands and Skeleton Creek habitat in April from the world renowned photographer, Denice Perryman.

Friday 17th April

The mulch arrived at NatureWest's 2020 revegetation site along Skeleton creek waterholes. The mulch was made from transport pallets being put in a industrial shredder, just another way to upcycle pallets.



MAY/JUNE 2020



Friday 29th May - Replacement Signage

Signage that had been vandalised by mini motor bikes near the **Sanctuary Lakes Footbridge, Altona Meadows**. A quality shiny panel reproduction (with heavy-duty anti-graffiti coating) of the original installed in 2017. Good work by **Andrew Webster, HBCC Senior Ranger**, in conjunction with **Hayden Goodall of Sardine Graphics**, for making it happen.

Sunday 25th June – Mulch Donation

John Forrester from the [Werribee River Association Werribee Riverkeeper](#) has generously facilitated a large donation of mulch for our 2021 planting site at **Bromage Close**. Daisy Lippiatt, an **Environment and Sustainability Advisor** working with the **Level Crossing Authority** organised for the mulch to be delivered. The Authority had to remove two large trees at Werribee and donated the mulch to our group to assist us. We thank both **John Forrester** and the **Level Crossing Authority**.



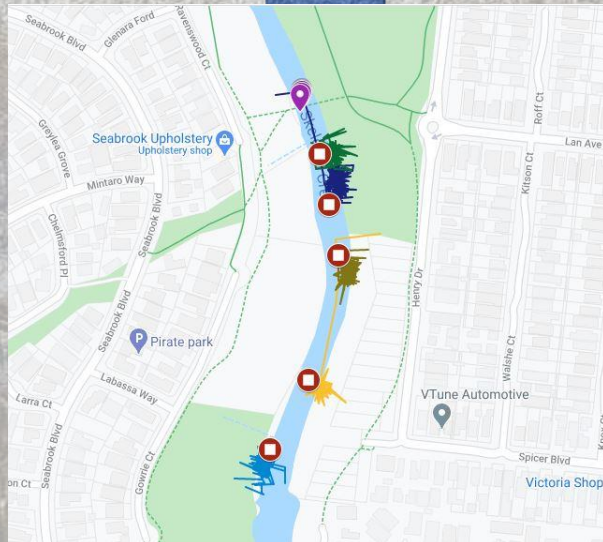
JULY 2020

Skeleton Creek : Launch date - 9 December 2019

Bottles	Outcomes	Total Distance travelled (Km)	Number of days in waterway (D)
Bottle 1	Trapped in creek	2.33	85
Bottle 2	Trapped in creek	2.07	85
Bottle 3	Trapped in creek	1.59	75
Bottle 4	Trapped in creek	1.89	85
Bottle 5	Trapped in creek	1.58	85

Skeleton Creek Summary

The Litter Trackers at Skeleton Creek did not travel downstream very far. Instead, the trackers got trapped a short distance downstream from the launch point in several areas of the creek. Skeleton Creek has a dense riparian corridor of *Phragmites Australis* extending into the creek which is a major reason why the trackers did not travel very far as they were all caught in the reeds. This could be indicative that litter that enters the creek may be trapped in the water system indefinitely.



Saturday
4th July
Final
update of
Little
Litter
Trackers



First viewings of actual progress towards Lan Avenue bridge construction. Denice coincidentally passing by and bumping into the Hobsons Bay staff member and engineer in charge.

AUGUST 2020



Sunday 23rd August – HBCC Conservation & Friends of Skeleton Creek Virtual Tour

A very successful virtual tour presented by **Suzette Rodereda, Andrew Webster and Angela** who spoke on the history of the group, our current conservation sites and the difficult early days.

A massive 40 people attendance!

SEPTEMBER 2020

Wednesday 16th September

Great spring update of our Emu Foot Grasslands from the lens of another world renowned **photographer Bob Winters**.



OCTOBER 2020

HABITATS

Celebrating indigenous flora & fauna in Hobsons Bay

Sunday 11th October – Louis Joel Centre Habitat Garden Tour and Talk presented by Angela

A very successful online presentation of **Angela** sharing her extensive knowledge of indigenous plants, through a virtual tour of her habitat garden.



Palmers Rd mural

Confirmed Skeleton Creek mural as part of “Remember the Wild” initiative lead by **Dr Catherine Cavallo, Chief Operating Officer & Social Media Manager**. Artwork to be done by **James Beattie**.

OCTOBER 2020



Monday 19th October
Finally! Construction of the
NEW Lan Avenue footbridge.

Tuesday 27th October
Angela and Denice were finally able to
plant 15 River Red Gums Angela potted
months ago, which will love the extra
water as the creek water levels rise.



That's all folks, for our 2020 'Year That Was'



A big **THANK YOU** to all our members, volunteers, conservation rangers and staff at Hobsons Bay and Wyndham councils and Melbourne Water, with special mention to **Denice Perryman** for still holding the strength of the group in such a rocky year.

Lastly, don't be shy, join the team!

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Friends of Skeleton Creek & Altona Bay Wetlands Inc.

1. Personal Information

(Please write neatly)

Family Name: _____ Given Name: _____ Male / Female

Address: _____

Contact No: (mobile) _____ (home) _____

E-mail: _____

2. Membership Categories

Please tick your category:

() \$10 Individual Membership/Mailing list

() \$15 Family Membership/Mailing list

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

For family membership, please list all names this membership covers

3. Payment Options

There are two payment options

() Cash to the Treasurer

() Direct Debit to Bank Acc

Account Name: Friends of Skeleton Creek and Altona Bay Wetlands

(Bendigo Bank) BSB: 633 000 Acc: 176792448

Please use your full name as reference if paying by direct debit

4. Member Signature

Signed: _____ Date: __/__/__

5. Membership Form Submittal

This completed form and membership cash payment can be handed to the Treasurer, Ewen Cowie, or if paid by direct debit you can scan and e-mail to friendsofskeletoncrk@gmail.com or post to:

Friends of Skeleton Creek and Altona Bay wetlands Inc
12 Hopetoun Crt
Altona Meadows VIC 3028

6. FOSC Office Bearer Use Only

Date Received: __/__/__

Any enquiries, please contact Treasurer, Ewen Cowie on 0412887938 or Secretary, Denise Perryman on 0429167013

or via e-mail on friendsofskeletoncrk@gmail.com

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.

You will receive the monthly Agenda and Minutes and special invitations to social events.

Membership is effective from the AGM date of 4 Nov 2020 through to the next AGM and renewal date of 3 Nov 2021.

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