

Newsletter

April 2017

MAY WORKING BEE

Sunday 28th May, 1 pm to 3 pm

Site Rejuvenation, Emu Foot
Grasslands, Spicer Blvd
Altona Meadows

[Melway Map 208 C2]

We will be back at the remnant Emu Foot Grasslands, maintained within the fenced-off area at the western end of Spicer Blvd (*see photos opposite of last activity there*).

As always, afternoon tea will be provided. Further enquiries to FoSC Secretary Denice Perryman on 0429 167 013 or deniceperryman1@gmail.com

Friends on Display

**Hobsons Bay Community
Information Expo**

We're represented at the Community Information Expo - **29 April to 11 May**, Louis Joel Centre, Altona, showcasing as part of the diverse range of community groups and organisations active in Hobsons Bay.

Why not drop in and have a look? More info, including opening times, at:

<https://www.facebook.com/137138843024545/photos/a.189819541089808.46344.137138843024545/1463513540387062/?type=3>

Looking Ahead

▪ **Hobsons Bay 2030 - Community Vision** is the first long-term plan for Hobsons Bay, which covers what residents think is important in their community.

Submissions have been formally received and will now be used as a guiding document for Council's work in the coming years, including the Council Plan 2017-21.

Hobsons Bay 2030 - Community Vision is now available for public comment on the council's web site, accessed from:

<http://participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/hobsonsbay2030/documents> (refer 'Final' at bottom of web page).



FRIENDS OF SKELETON CREEK

Volunteers restoring our local creek



*Sunday 23rd April saw seven FoSC volunteers and new HBCC Conservation Team Ranger Tim Dowling work at our new site at the remnant **Emu Foot Grasslands**, end of Spicer Blvd, Altona Meadows. The hard yakka team enjoyed a well-earned afternoon cuppa after spreading a big mound of crushed rock and a slightly smaller mound of mulch. This is the site for our next activity on Sunday 28th May.*



▪ **Hobsons Bay Biodiversity Strategy** supports the protection and enhancement of the natural environment, water ways and coastline.

It provides the strategic direction to guide Council's conservation management works.

Hobsons Bay City Council is fortunate to have a natural environment rich in diversity.

This includes rare and unique flora and fauna, the Ramsar listed Cheetham wetlands, major waterways, large coastal and marine areas, open spaces, wetlands and grasslands

that provide important habitat to native plants and animals,

including migratory birds, and are places of rich biodiversity.

The Biodiversity Strategy Draft Consultation closed on 29th April. FoSC members had input into the draft and attended several workshops.

Signage Rejuvenation and Planting Activity

**Labassa Way/Bowood Ct, Seabrook
Tuesday 11th April**

By Denice Perryman

We had eight willing workers arrive on the day. We put in 35 tough survivor plants, while Andrew Webster our Hobsons Bay Council's Senior Ranger (who got out of his sick bed to come), with Brian, cleaned and painted the sign and reversed the board showing our old PO Box signage. (*Photos follow*)

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We had a 'newbie' in Veronica Sheen, who attended the Frogs of Wyndham day held recently along the creek at Point Cook, when I spoke about our group. This inspired Veronica to join FoSC! Great to see you, Veronica.

Tony and Hang are now becoming regulars, and Tony's granddaughter was super keen too.

This was a happy productive morning, showing great results - with enough soup to go around after!



BEFORE



DURING



AFTER

Have you 'liked' our FoSC Facebook Community Page?

It's regularly updated with the latest news, events and photos. Go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/friendsofskeletoncreek/>

A Field Day with Seabrook Primary School



At our now annual Seabrook Primary School Field Day, held on Monday 24th April, FoSC President Angela Whiffin again made a masterful effort organising 150 kids to do water bug investigations and planting.

This was a big day with Angela, Ewen, Denice and HBCC's Andrew Webster. The kids were enthusiastic and well engaged.

Congratulations to Angela and all involved from FoSC and the school.



Incoming News

- Victorian National Parks Association's quarterly magazine 'Park Watch' has an article on the battle against privatisation of our prime conservation areas, titled "Parks for sale – again!" An online PDF version is available at <https://vnpa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Park-Watch-March-2017.pdf>

- The Werribee River Association is looking to increase public awareness of the Werribee River, while informing its members of its activities, to attract new membership and to celebrate its achievements. It's holding a Winter Forum at the Crossroads Uniting Church, Cnr Synnott St & Duncans Rd, Werribee, on Thu 29th June, 7.00 – 8:30 pm, with a light (but nutritious meal) provided. Further information at:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/213447339153436/>

Or RSVP to werribeeriver@gmail.com by Fri 16th June.

- Bernie McCarrick, Ranger Parks Victoria, told us that there's been some erosion along our local coastal area since February 2017, but sand seems to be building up again, which is good news!

Where do the Cormorants go home to roost?

Veronica Sheen has alerted us to her wonderful observation - where some of our local Pied Cormorants go home to roost!

“At the moment, hundreds of cormorants come in the evening to roost in the trees between Point Cook Rd bridge and the footbridge at Seabrook. It is so important that the birds have places to roost, nest and hide,” she told us.

The photo opposite was taken in the evening by Veronica near her home.

It's quite special to see these magnificent birds who give some pretty impressive flight displays in our neighbourhood, along Skeleton Creek.

The inset photo was taken by Sanctuary Lakes resident Bob Winters, who provided the content of our nine HBCC-funded interpretative signs, now installed along Skeleton Creek. This photo is on the signage titled ‘Skeleton Creek Traffic Report’, located along the shared path opposite Featherby Way, Altona Meadows.



Friends Excursion to Inspiring Beauty Lake Elizabeth, Great Otway National Park

Our latest FoSC social excursion, Wed 26th to Thu 27th April, took us to Lake Elizabeth, located in the Great Otway National Park, near the small town of Forrest (about 90 km south west of Geelong).

Lake Elizabeth has inspiring beauty with heavily timbered flanks and calm waters punctuated by the trunks of dead trees, drowned when the valley was flooded more than 50 years ago to form a ‘perched lake’.

Organised by both Wrenford Brown and Denice Perryman, six FoSC members (Wrenford, Kay, Vicki, Wayne, Denice and Anne) made the trip, staying overnight at the cutely named Wonky Stable Holiday Park, a beautiful bush camping ground run by Parks Victoria.

More FoSC social excursions are planned for the year. Stay tuned!



*The Friends of Skeleton Creek & Altona Bay
Wetlands Inc. gratefully acknowledge the
support of Melbourne Water*

FoSC Newsletter Subscription Email Changes? Unsubscribe?

If you want to advise a change to your email address or unsubscribe from this newsletter, please email us with the necessary details to:
friendsofskeletoncrk@gmail.com

Membership

Friends of Skeleton Creek & Altona Bay Wetlands Inc.

Your volunteering at our 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 with our group.

Cost is: Individual FoSC Membership/Mailing List - \$10.00; Family FoSC Membership/Mailing List - \$15.00

Membership is effective from the AGM date of 2nd November 2016 through to the next AGM and renewal date of 1st November 2017.

Payment details are on the FoSC Membership Form.

Completion of the FoSC membership form and payment can be made at one of our monthly meetings or at an activity day.

You can request the membership form by emailing:
friendsofskeletoncrk@gmail.com

Friends of Skeleton Creek meetings are held the first Wednesday in the month (except January), starting at 7:30 pm, Old Laverton School, Altona Meadows (corner Kiora St and Cameron Ave).

The next FoSC meeting will be on Wednesday 3 May.

All Welcome.

If you missed it ...

Our Nine New Interpretive Signs Star!

Now that our nine wonderful new interpretive signs have been installed along Hobsons Bay Council's side of the creek, we've had a boost in publicity from the Maribyrnong & Hobsons Bay Star Weekly. The story's at:

<http://www.starweekly.com.au/news/a-sign-of-friendship/>

Friends of Skeleton Creek

Calendar of Activities 2017

This is our calendar of activities for both Hobsons Bay and Wyndham City councils in 2017.

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

Details of the activities are always advertised in this newsletter and on our [Facebook Community Page](#).

*Except where shown, all FoSC activities are held on a **Sunday from 1 pm to 3 pm***

28 May

Spicer Blvd, Altona Meadows (Emu Foot Grasslands), rejuvenation of site

Tuesday 13 June, 10 am to 12 pm

Bromage Close, Hoppers Crossing
Planting

25 June

Bromage Close, Hoppers Crossing
Planting

23 July (alternative National Tree Day)

(official day is Sunday, 30 July 2017)

Bromage Close, Hoppers Crossing
Planting

27 August

Spicer Blvd, Altona Meadows (Emu Foot Grasslands), rejuvenation of site

24 September

Bushcare's Big Day Out
Bromage Close, Hoppers Crossing
Mulch spreading

22 October

Merton St/Markham Way, Altona Meadows
Maintenance

26 November

Bromage Close, Hoppers Crossing
Maintenance

Friends of Skeleton Creek Committee

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