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FRIENDS OF SKELETON CREEK

Volunteers restoring our local creek

August/September 2017 e-Newsletter

OUR AIMS

- 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

F O S C E L S E W H E R E



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Hello,

Welcome to the first edition of our e-Newsletter, created and distributed using the HTML email program MailChimp. The new format replaces our PDF version sent to you. You should more quickly and easily read the contents, especially on your mobile phone, without having to open a PDF attachment, as well, to change how you receive these emails (see bottom of page).

Yours in conservation volunteering

John Dawes

Publicity Officer
Friends of Skeleton Creek & Altona Bay Wetlands Inc.

NEXT ACTIVITY

Where: Bromage Close, Hoppers Crossing
[Melway Map 203 B11]
When: Sunday 24th September
Time: 1 pm - 3 pm

Come on down to help the local environment while exercising in the outdoors!

This will be a mulching day, where we have already put in many hundred native plants and grasses and some boulders - all to help improve the habitat of the Growling Grass Frog.

Wyndham Council conservation rangers will be in attendance. Tools and gloves provided.

As usual, afternoon tea will be provided.

Further enquiries to Denice Perryman, FoSC Secretary, on 0429 167 013 or deniceperryman1@gmail.com



PAST ACTIVITY

Sunday 27th August



Thanks to all 10 volunteers, incl Hobsons Bay City Council Ranger Libby Rigby and new young helper Annabelle and her dad Travis, who braved the wintry conditions to put in some 300 native plants inside the fenced off Emu Foot Grassland, adjacent to Henry Drive and Spicer Blvd, Altona Meadows.

Some plants were also put in with guards and stakes outside the fence line, next to the new interpretive sign by Libby and Angela Whiffin.

Due to the wet and boggy soil, particularly at the bottom of the area, we noticed large bush worms coming up for air to breathe.

The activity ended with the usual welcomed afternoon tea provided by Denice Perryman.

The site is named the Emu Foot Grassland after the beautiful plant growing there, commonly called "Emu Foot" (Cullen tenax).

The Hobsons Bay Council conservation crew have been managing the Emu Foot site with brush cutting and mowing to reduce fuel load, organic matter and competition from exotic grasses.

SOCIAL EVENTS

By Denice Perryman, FoSC Secretary

Anakie Gorge

Tuesday 22nd August - Anakie Gorge in the Brisbane Ranges, with Wrenford & Kay Brown, Vicki Dunn, John Stirk and myself.

The weather was mostly sunny, we had good company, lots of birds including wattle birds and two laughing kookas, interesting flora, especially the wattle in flower.

Starting from the picnic area, our walk led along a relatively flat gradient, with signage explaining interesting features along the way. A pipeline carrying water from Lower Stony Creek Reservoir, constructed in the 1870s to service Geelong, can be seen in places.

We later enjoyed a beaut bush BBQ organised by Wren. It was a great day had by all.



Cranbourne Botanical Gardens

Our next FoSC social event is a trip to Cranbourne Botanical Gardens, containing the Australian Garden, which is an inspiring display of Australian flora, landscapes, art and architecture.

I thought it would be nice to do a Saturday so working people get a chance to attend, but we could not find a Saturday date to suit.

So Tuesday 10th October was the first date we could come up with to suit most members.

If you wish to attend, please email Denice at deniceperryman1@gmail.com

This means I can let people know what is happening and cancel if the weather is unkind. We will leave at 9:30 and the day will flow from there.

Denice and Angela talk conservation

One of the aims of the Friends of Skeleton Creek is to educate the community and schools children about the creek and the need to conserve it.

Denice Perryman and Angela Whiffin – who helped form the Friends of Skeleton Creek back in 1991, are regularly asked to give a talk at conservation events, to community groups and school groups.

Feedback from Denice and Angela's talks have been most heartening. In the past week, they received gratitude from teacher Tom Cleeland from Tarneit Secondary College after they conducted a talk to his Year 9 group about our revegetation work along the creek.

"Just wanted to say thanks again for this morning. I think it is important work the Friends groups do and hopefully some of that rubbed off on the students," he said. "The information was great, it's so relevant to what the students are learning."

Wyndham Senior's Festival

Angela and Denice will also be back at our revegetation site - Bromage Close, Hoppers Crossing, on Sunday 8th October, 1 pm – 3 pm, giving an introduction to conservation as part of the Wyndham Senior's Festival.

An expert from Wyndham City Council will also discuss conservation in Wyndham, which will be followed by some mulching inside plant guards and a walk along the creek.

Afternoon tea will be provided.

Further enquiries to Denice Perryman on 0429 167 013 or deniceperryman1@gmail.com

[The event has been organised in conjunction with Amanda Burns, Positive Ageing & Disability Community Development Officer, Wyndham City Council, who assisted our group in printing promotional flyers, which have been placed in local libraries.]



Last year, Angela Whiffin and Denise Perryman were presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for 25 Years of Community Service by Hobsons Bay Mayor Councillor Peter Hemphill.

[Angela is also presenting a talk on 'Birdscaping: Garden for birds' at the Hobsons Bay Seniors Festival in October. See below for further information.]

Birdscaping: Gardens for birds

Angela Whiffin, our FoSC President (and who works at the Newport Lakes Native Nursery), will be giving a talk on some of the best local plants and planting design to encourage birds to take up residence in your garden.

You can join Angela on Wednesday 11th October, 6.15 pm to 7.30 pm, at the Envirocentre, Altona Library, 123 Queen Street, Altona.

Bookings essential. Phone 1300 462 542 or visit the council website address: libraries.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

Skeleton Creek Trail Upgrade

Over the next three years, Hobsons Bay City Council is upgrading sections of the Skeleton Creek Trail.

Construction has begun creating connection or lead-in trails to Ayr Street, Ascot Street South and Creek Waters Close. Following this, upgrade works to the trail will commence at South Terrace.

This will involve upgrading the existing track between Labassa Way and South Terrace to a three-metre wide, fully accessible, concrete shared trail realigned outside the 1 in 100-year flood zone. But, unfortunately, we will lose some large trees in the process.

Further information at <http://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Council/Current-projects/Shared-Trails-Construction-Projects/Skeleton-Creek-Trail-Construction>



Blockumentary

John Hogg, FoSC member (and former Hobsons Bay Councillor Mayor), is featuring in the short film Blockumentary that documents the changes in the Laverton community from the viewpoint of locals, giving light to the stories and the characters.

John says some of the footage, which was made in collaboration with Woods Street Arts Space and video production company Light Works, was taken near Skeleton Creek but was unsure if the creek's shown in the film.

Further information at <http://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Arts-amp-Leisure/Arts/Art-in-Public-Places/>

Have Your Say

Werribee Catchment Co-design

You're invited to help co-design the 10-year Healthy Waterways strategy for the Werribee catchment.

Melbourne Water is inviting anyone with an interest in improving and protecting the waterways in this area for the enjoyment of future generations is welcome to participate online and attend collaboration events.

The Werribee catchment covers the catchments for Little River, Werribee River, Lerderderg River, Skeleton Creek and Kororoit Creek, which all drain into the northwest area of Port Phillip Bay.

Further information about the strategy participation at: <https://yoursay.melbournewater.com.au/werribee-catchment>

Family Time by the Creek



These beautiful Black Swan parents and their cygnets were having family time in a pondage area off Skeleton Creek, Tarneit. Photo by FoSC member Wrenford Brown.

Visited our Facebook Community Page?

Our events and photos are regularly posted on our Facebook page, as well as late changes and cancellations of activities.

To join the Friends of Skeleton Creek Facebook page, click on the Facebook icon link below and 'like' our page to 'join'. It's that simple!

Visited our Web page?



We have more information about us and our conservation activities on the NatureWest web page, including back issues of our PDF newsletters (up to July 2017), click on the Website icon below.



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

**FRIENDS OF SKELETON CREEK & ALTONA BAY WETLANDS INC.
COMMITTEE**

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