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# Newsletter

## June 2017

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### July Working Bee

#### *To be Advised*

Our next activity planned for Sunday 23rd July at Bromage Close, Hoppers Crossing, cannot be confirmed until a site meeting is undertaken. Further advise will be provided on our Facebook community page.

### June Working Bees

**Tuesday 13 June** (photo opposite). Our midweek planting at our extended site at Bromage Close had a good turnout of volunteers and we welcomed five new faces :) There were also extra Wyndham City Council conservation staff headed by Darren Wright, including two enthusiastic trainees experiencing their first day on the job. The little conservation helper (below) came with mum Belinda and happily stacked the empty plant tubes. We had prepared the site earlier this year with the Wyndham Council conservation team by mulching, installing jute matting and placing boulders there.



**Sunday 25 June** (photos opposite and below). The cool and overcast day didn't deter our volunteers coming out in force. We were back planting at our extended site (cont. bottom right) ...



## FRIENDS OF SKELETON CREEK

Volunteers restoring our local creek



### Back-to-back at Bromage Close, Hoppers Crossing



replacing some damaged jute matting and planting around 800 native grasses and ground covers between the earlier placement of boulders. Thanks to the 18 volunteers, including Conservation Rangers Sal and Darren from Wyndham City Council. Thank you to Kristine Konings for organising the much welcomed afternoon tea - the fill-in replacement of mainstay FoSC Secretary Denice Perryman (who was on a walking tour in the WA Kimberley).

## Denice and Angela join the Scouts



**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June.** FoSC Secretary Denice Perryman and President Angela Whiffin put on a conservation-themed puppet show for the 1st Point Cook Scouts at the Jamieson Way Community Centre, Point Cook. Angela reported that it was a fun night. The kids were fully engaged in Angela's puppet show (great backdrops) and had lots of questions after Denice's PowerPoint presentation. Denice and Angela were invited by FoSC volunteer and 1st Point Cook Scouts leader Matt Nielsen.

## World Environment Day Celebrated at The Planetarium 'Connecting People with Nature'

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June.** FoSC were invited to Hobsons Bay City Council's World Environment Day celebration of local environment groups at The Planetarium, Scienceworks, Spotswood. The theme of the evening was 'Connecting People with Nature'.

Our group was represented by John Dawes, Kristine Konings, John Stirk, and Catherine Curtain.

Colleen Gates, HBCC Wetlands Ward Councillor was MC and HBCC Mayor Councillor Sandra Wilson contributed to the evening, including announcing HBCC's commitment to the international Compact of Mayors, ICLEI (the world's largest cooperative effort committed to Sustainable Cities).

Museum Victoria Curator Kate Phillips explored this year's World Environment Day theme, a Planetarium film revealed the challenges of a changing climate, and Jamie Marloo Thomas of Wayapa Wurrk shared Indigenous knowledge of Country.

The winners of the photo competition, showing the unique flora and fauna of Hobsons Bay, were also announced.

The event highlighted Hobsons Bay City Council's strong commitment to our local environment and the support provided to conservation groups like the Friends of Skeleton Creek.



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

## Interpreting the Emu Foot Grassland



At our new FoSC planting site - the Emu Foot Grassland (opposite Spicer Blvd & Henry Dve, Altona Meadows), a new Hobsons Bay City Council interpretive sign has gone in. The colourful sign illustrates how grasslands provide habitat for a variety of rare species - surviving and protected here such as the Spiny Rice-flower, Chocolate Lily, Windmill Grass, Emu Foot Grass, Kangaroo Grass, Wallaby Grass, and Tall Bluebell ... also watch out for Tiger Snakes if venturing in through the new gates! Well done to HBCC and the Conservation Rangers!

## Latest Newsletter



Victorian Environment  
**FRIENDS NETWORK**

The Victorian Environment Friends

Network (VEFN) exists to help represent the common interests of all Friends groups in Victoria. To read their latest June newsletter, click on the link below:

<http://friendsvic.org/2017/06/17/friendsnet-99-june-2017/>

VEFN is also now on Facebook:

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

## VNPA Campaign



VICTORIAN  
**NATIONAL PARKS  
ASSOCIATION**

The Victorian National Parks Association (VNPA) has

been at the forefront of nature conservation campaigns for more than 65 years. Their current campaign is to protect the fragmented forests and woodlands - and more than 30 threatened native species (20 animals and 14 plants) in the west of Victoria. More details at:

<https://vnpa.org.au/protect-action/protect-our-western-forests/>

## Shoestring Gardening

FoSC member Dianne Wilson is keen for others to know about Shoestring Gardening, which is a community of urban gardeners in the Werribee area, supported by the Western Region Environmental Centre.



Shoestring Gardening is launching a new enterprise over the coming months that will be tailored to pre-schools in Wyndham. Find out more from their June Newsletter at:

<http://mailchi.mp/83f6613ce04a/june-news-from-shoestring-gardening?e=885b6f0e67>

**F**riends of Skeleton Creek meetings are held the first Wednesday in the month (except January), starting at 7:00 pm\*, Old Laverton School, Altona Meadows (corner Kiora St and Cameron Ave).

The next FoSC meeting will be on Wednesday 5 July.

All Welcome.

\* Please note, following consensus among the FoSC committee at our last meeting, we are starting our meetings ½ hr earlier at 7:00 pm (instead of 7:30 pm) on a trial basis.

## **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](mailto:friendsofskeletoncrk@gmail.com)

### **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](mailto:friendsofskeletoncrk@gmail.com)

## **Friends of Skeleton Creek**

### **Calendar of Activities 2017**

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

\* 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**

**23 July** (alternative National Tree Day)

(official day is Sunday, 30 July 2017)

Bromage Close, Hoppers Crossing

(to be confirmed)

**27 August**

Spicer Blvd/Henry Drive, Altona Meadows (Emu Foot Grasslands), planting

**24 September**

Bushcare's Big Day Out

Bromage Close, Hoppers Crossing

Mulch spreading

**8 October**

(in conjunction with Wyndham Seniors Week)

Bromage Close, Hoppers Crossing

**22 October**

Merton St/Markham Way, Altona Meadows  
Maintenance

**26 November**

Bromage Close, Hoppers Crossing  
Maintenance

### **Friends of Skeleton Creek Facebook Page**

### **Have you 'Liked' us yet?**

It's regularly updated with news, events and photos.

Go to:

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

### **Friends of Skeleton Creek Committee**

<b>Secretary</b>	<b>President</b>	<b>Vice President / Publicity Officer</b>
Denice Perryman	Angela Whiffin	John Dawes
<a href="mailto:deniceperryman1@gmail.com">deniceperryman1@gmail.com</a>	<a href="mailto:angelawhiff@hotmail.com">angelawhiff@hotmail.com</a>	<a href="mailto:dawesj2@gmail.com">dawesj2@gmail.com</a>
Tel 0429 167 013, 93158072	Tel 0430 551 631, 93692892	Tel 0408 663 376
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Postal Address</b>	<b>Facebook Community Page</b>
Ewen Cowie	12 Hopetoun Court	Administrator John Dawes
<a href="mailto:de.cowie@bigpond.net.au">de.cowie@bigpond.net.au</a>	Altona Meadows 3028	<b>Friends of Skeleton Creek Email</b>
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