
Newsletter

November 2016

We have a new Logo!

At our October meeting we finalised our choice of logo, among four draft options from Hayden Goodall of Sardine graphic design studio.

We came up with ideas to add and improve the chosen logo, such as the slogan 'Volunteers restoring our local creek'.

The new logo is simple but effective. The contoured dark green line below our group name symbolises the flow of our creek, as does the Phragmites reed - represented by this colour version's subtle blend of green, yellow and reddish brown.

The logo comes in five versions to suit all formats – two 'on white' versions (colour with slogan and colour without slogan), three black and white versions (with slogan and without slogan, and a reversed version for when the logo appears on a dark background).

We are very pleased with the new logo Hayden Goodall has produced for us.

The new FoSC logo will be used on the new interpretive signage being prepared for Hobsons Bay City Council's side of Skeleton Creek, along with our QR code for our Facebook page.

Skeleton Creek Interpretive Signage Panels

Now we have Nine!

Our re-elected Hobsons Bay Wetlands Ward councillor Colleen Gates has secured funding for our three remaining signage panels. You are a legend Colleen!

Initially the \$20,000 grant was only for the cost for six panels, as part of HBCC's Skeleton Creek Trail upgrade. Now all nine panels will be completed and installed at the same time, most likely after Christmas.

This is in addition to the separate \$2000 design content grant received earlier from HBCC for local flora and fauna expert Bob Winters' content design (not including his 'in-kind' contribution).

Our FoSC subcommittee has worked tirelessly on finalising the signage.

FRIENDS OF SKELETON CREEK

Volunteers restoring our local creek



Our last working bee for the year was a maintenance activity along the shared path off Markham Way in Altona Meadows on Sunday 23rd October.

Thanks for coming Friends and helping with a mainly weeding activity - made easier by the sodden ground!

We were visited by representatives from the Altona Lions Club (Anne, Maurie and Wolf) who inspected our newly erected microbat boxes the club kindly funded.

We ended the day with a beautiful BBQ put on by our hard-working HBCC Ranger Libby Rigby. Thanks Libby!



AGM a hugely heartening affair

By Denice Perryman

Wednesday 2nd November saw our Annual General Meeting take place at our regular monthly meeting venue, the Old School House in Altona Meadows. It was a hugely heartening affair for the old campaigners like Angela and Denice.

When giving my Secretary's report on the night, to look out at a group of members and regulars of 20, made me feel quite emotional. I remembered the days when I had to drag my family along to make up the numbers!

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We brought food along to share for dinner, which went down very well - as there was very little left over!

The special invited guests we welcomed were Cr Colleen Gates, HBCC Conservation Ranger Andrew Webster, and Wyndham City Council Open Space Community Engagement Officer Darren Wright.

Thanks to keynote speaker John Hogg, former Hobsons Bay councillor and deputy mayor, who gave us a deeply personal history of the area. I have lived here for nearly 40 years and found out a lot by listening to John. It was wonderful to see John's family there to hear him, too.

John Dawes did a 'FoSC year-that-was' PowerPoint presentation, followed by the unveiling of our new FoSC logo and what we've prepared for our interpretive signage panels. I have to say it's pretty impressive what we have achieved as a group this year.

Thanks to John Dawes in his role as FoSC Publicity Officer, particularly his expertise in producing our newsletter and admin of our Facebook page, which has led to a further increase in our volunteer numbers and the overall enthusiasm and vitality this has brought to our group.

The committee positions for 2017 are:

- President: Angela Whiffin
- Vice President/Publicity Officer: John Dawes
- Secretary: Denice Perryman
- Treasurer: Ewen Cowie
- Other Committee: Kristine Konings
- Other Committee: John Stirk
- Other Committee: Diana Grima

Having operated for many years without a Vice President or other committee this lineup looks pretty strong.

* The AGM's PowerPoint presentation is available in PDF from:

<http://naturewest.org.au/attachments/article/436/FoSC%20AGM%20Nov%202016.pdf>

Also at our web page at NatureWest are our recent FoSC PDF newsletters:

<http://naturewest.org.au/municipalities/353-hobsons-bay/hobsons-bay-groups/436-friends-of-skeleton-creek-6#newsletters>

A walk and talk along Skeleton Creek

By Denice Perryman

Our group was asked by Wyndham Council's Amanda Burns to speak to participants at the Seniors Festival Walk during the recent Seniors Week. Amanda is the Positive Ageing & Disability Community Development Officer.

The more able-bodied group walked along Skeleton Creek to the old Leakes Dairy (Rosegrange), Sayers Road, Truganina, where Angela Whiffin and Denice spoke about our group, our work and our welcoming attitude towards volunteers.

There was a very positive response, including from the coordinator of a group of older Indian men who, along with their wives, have travelled to Australia to help look after their grandchildren. We may get some assistance from that group. Some indigenous planting up that way was good to see, too.

Hobsons Bay Council Conservation Volunteers Tour Woodlands Historic Park



By Denice Perryman

Led by Hobsons Bay Conservation rangers Andrew Webster, Libby Rigby and Frank Fardell, our much-anticipated annual bus tour this year (Saturday 15th October) was to the Woodlands Historic Park - Somerton Road, Greenvale (north of Tullamarine Airport). This year our group was represented by Angela and Denice.

The park has a 150-year old homestead, indigenous canoe trees, native woodland and grassland.

Native wildlife abounds with the kangaroos being so prolific they are destroying the habitat of the



Eastern Barred Bandicoot being bred in the fenced 'Back Paddock'. We saw animals, birds and other wildlife.

Parks Victoria acknowledges the Aboriginal traditional owners of Woodlands. Through their cultural traditions, Aboriginal people maintain their connection to their ancestral lands and waters and a burial ground there.

Conservation Volunteers Australia manage the property for Parks Victoria and we were lucky enough to have the Park Manager Travis Scicchitano with us for the majority of the day. Conservation volunteers are needed at the park for:

- Removal of invasive weed species
- Planting of native grasses
- Eradicating foxes and rabbits
- Maintenance and monitoring of exclusion fencing
- Eastern Barred Bandicoot population monitoring through survey methods including remote camera surveys and manual trapping

In the morning we visited conservation sites including fenced revegetation sites and Bandicoot hides. In the afternoon we went on a lovely rambling walk through the site along the creek bed.

Thank you Hobsons Bay City Council for another great annual conservation volunteers day. The supplied luncheon was also a fantastic spread, as usual. ☺



Friends' Conservation Bike Ride 'Mystery Tour'

In place of our monthly working bee on Sunday 27th November, we had a conservation/waterways bike ride, led by member Wrenford Brown. Starting and finishing from the Jolly Miller Cafe, at the Shopping Centre in Williams Landing, we went on a mystery tour of sorts, past FoSC working bee sites, towards Hoppers Crossing. Wrenford said he would be taking us to a delightful little 'gorge' right in the middle of suburbia – in fact, it was Sayers Drain, and it was delightful! Riders in the photo are (from left) Greg Orr, Wren Brown, Denise Perryman, Ann Barkly, Dieter Bosnjakovic, and Angela Whiffin.

NatureWest Group Survey

We started collecting information and listing our aims using the NatureWest pro-forma for this worthwhile conservation volunteer group survey this year.

However, this was put 'on hold' when our HBCC grant money for the interpretive signage came through and our committee turned our attention to the signage contents preparation. This has been a significant undertaking for the signage subcommittee, which is still ongoing as the HBCC Communications Department is currently revising some of our contents.

We will be picking up the NatureWest survey again and sending the efforts out to FoSC group members for comment after the next meeting.

Friends' Mount Rothwell Tour

The Mount Rothwell Tour, mooted for end of this year, was another activity that was put 'on hold' for the reasons outlined above; as well Denise went on a well-deserved South Pacific cruise during this time!

At our next meeting, we will pick a date for the Mount Rothwell tour for sometime in January.

Friends of Skeleton Creek Calendar of Activities 2017

We have now set our calendar of activities with both Hobsons Bay and Wyndham City councils for 2017.

As you know, sometimes we may need to adjust our plans close to the time of each activity. Details of the activities are always publicised in this newsletter and on our Facebook page.

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

Tuesday 14 February, 10 am to 12 pm

Bromage Close, Hoppers Crossing
Weed mat spreading

26 February

Spicer Blvd, Altona Meadows
Site familiarisation and weeding

26 March

Bromage Close, Hoppers Crossing
Mulch spreading

Tuesday 11 April, 10 am to 12 pm

Labassa Way, Seabrook
Sign rejuvenation and shrub planting

23 April

Clarendon Crt, Seabrook
Maintenance

28 May

Spicer Blvd, Altona Meadows
Planting

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
Planting

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

Christmas Break-up Meeting at Denice's Wed 7th December, 6:30 pm

The Christmas break-up meeting will be held on Wednesday 7th December at 12 Hopetoun Crt, Altona Meadows, at 6:30 pm.

This will be a social get-together as well as a short group meeting. All volunteer members and supporters are invited to attend.

Denice will provide the main course and, if you are coming, could you please bring a salad or dessert. Denice will also provide soft drinks and you are free to bring other drinks of your choice.

For catering purposes can you please let Denice know if you're coming and what you're bringing, on: 9315 8072 or 0429 167 013.

Visited out Facebook Community Page?

It works like a community noticeboard. The page's contents are always fresh and up to-date. Our events and photos are regularly posted, as well as late changes and cancellations of events.

To join the Friends of Skeleton Creek Facebook page, go to www.facebook.com/friendsofskeletoncreek and 'like' our page to 'join'. It's that simple!

The page (administered by John Dawes) is also linked to the NatureWest web page, where we also have all our recent newsletters in PDF format:

<http://naturewest.org.au/municipalities/353-hobsons-bay/hobsons-bay-groups/436-friends-of-skeleton-creek-6>

If you haven't taken the plunge yet and you don't have a Facebook account, you can create one in a few easy steps:

1. Go to www.facebook.com
2. If you see the sign-up form, fill out your name, email address or phone number, password, birthday and gender. If you don't see the form, click 'Sign Up', then fill out the form.
3. Click 'Sign Up'. Once you sign up, you'll need to confirm your email or phone number.



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

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



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

4. The basic privacy settings and tools then can be looked at and applied. Follow this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/help/325807937506242>

Friends of Skeleton Creek Committee

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