

Friends of Skeleton Creek & Altona Bay Wetlands Inc.



December 2015 Newsletter

Short and Sweet

By Denice Perryman,
Secretary Friends of Skeleton Creek

Dear FoSC folk, our last newsletter for the year - and I'll try to keep it short and sweet!

I covered all our year's eventful activities in my AGM and Secretary's Report in the November newsletter.

[If you would like a PDF copy of our November newsletter and/or the AGM PowerPoint presentation (4.6 MB PDF), please email our Publicity Officer John Dawes at: friendsofskeletoncrk@gmail.com]

Our next working bee will be on Sunday 28th February. This activity has been moved to Merton St /Markham Way, Altona Meadows. We will do mulch spreading, as we have done all we can at Clarendon Court, Seabrook, until next planting season.

Our revised 2016 activities calendar is on last page. Please keep in mind that as we work hand-in-hand with both councils - Hobsons Bay and Wyndham, and also due to our own circumstances, sometimes we may need to adjust our plans close to the time of each activity.

Maintenance Day

Our last working bee for the year was held on Sunday 29th November at Clarendon Court, Seabrook.



This could be called almost a non-car working bee - using active transport to get there, as John, Kristine, Greg and Angela all arrived by push bike, while Peta walked a short distance. We had two Anne's, which helped out my poor memory.

This sloping site is more difficult to work on than our other sites. We had what you would call a "maintenance day". We managed to remove dead branches, carpet weed and couch grass, not to mention the not-so-lovely-to-handle box thorn, which was greatly "attracted" to our workers!

This was a "hard yakka" working bee with the feel of a boy's own adventure (slightly out of control and a bit of danger thrown in). We even managed to "erect" a "cormorant perch" by pushing a large broken eucalypt branch into the bank of the Creek!

NatureWest

The Western Melbourne Catchments Network held a workshop on Saturday 28th November to help formulate the future plans for the new Natural History Centre at The Homestead, Werribee Park. FoSC's Greg Orr and John Dawes attended.

At their AGM, immediately after the workshop, the Western Melbourne Catchments Network voted to change their name to NatureWest.

This name change more reflects what they currently do and their future vision.

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NatureWest pro-actively work with community groups, schools, individual projects, Friends or Landcare groups to further improve our local natural flora and fauna in both rural and urban environments in Melbourne's west.

Where possible, the Friends of Skeleton Creek will work more closely with NatureWest in the future.

For more information on NatureWest, their homepage is: <http://www.wmcn.org.au/>

NatureWest's Facebook page is located at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/130527343756713/>

December Meeting

Our December meeting at my place was a short one as it was our Christmas breakup get-together.

Many thanks to all who have assisted during the year in the many capacities that we've had need for. We hope to see you well, fit and ready to join us in 2016 - to continue to care and look after the health of our Creek!

Friends of Skeleton Creek Membership Renewal 2015/2016

We are sending out our membership renewal form for those of you who would like to renew. Some of you who are not yet members may like to become a member.

Thank you to those who've renewed or have just joined.

Membership is not compulsory but it can help you feel more connected with our group. Your volunteering at our activities is highly valued, even if you can only find time to contribute a few hours during the year.

Cost for Individual FoSC Membership/Mailing List is \$10.00, and FoSC Family/Mailing List is \$15.00.

Membership is effective from the AGM date of 4th November 2015 through to the next AGM and renewal date of 2nd November 2016.

Details of payment is on the FoSC Membership Form.

The membership form is a separate PDF attachment with this newsletter mail-out. You can also request the membership form anytime by emailing:
friendsofskeletoncrk@gmail.com



The Friends of Skeleton Creek gratefully acknowledge the support of Melbourne Water

FRIENDS OF SKELETON CREEK

2016 CALENDAR

*** Starting and finishing time of activities are 1 pm to 3 pm, unless otherwise advised.*

Sun 28 Feb - Merton St/Markham Way, Altona Meadows

Sun 27 Mar - Bromage Close, Hoppers Crossing

Sun 17 Apr - Clarendon Court, Seabrook

Sun 22 May - Clarendon Court, Seabrook

Tue 14 June - Midweek planting, 10 am to 12 pm, Clarendon Court, Seabrook

Sun 26 Jun - Bromage Close, Hoppers Crossing

Sun 24 Jul - National Tree Day (alternative day), Creek Water Close, Altona Meadows

Sun 28 Aug - Bromage Close, Hoppers Crossing

Sun 25 Sep - Bromage Close, Hoppers Crossing

Sun 23 Oct - Merton St/Markham Way, Altona Meadows

Sun 27 Nov - Bromage Close, Hoppers Crossing

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

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