

Friends of Skeleton Creek & Altona Bay Wetlands Inc.



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February 2015 Newsletter

Welcome to another year with the Friends of Skeleton Creek!

NEW GRANT FOR MERTON ST/ MARKHAM WAY AND CLARENDON CRT

We are pleased to announce that Melbourne Water has again seen fit to fund our organisation this year.

We have an Administration Grant of \$697.84 to keep our group running and a grant of \$10,587 for works at Merton St/Markham Way, Altona Meadows, and Clarendon Crt, Seabrook.

Markham Way will be our focus for planting in 2015, with Newport Lakes Nursery growing 1000 plants specifically for this site.

Clarendon Crt, Seabrook, will be prepared for work in 2016, when 500 plants will be put in at this new site.

This grant, along with our Hobsons Bay Community Fund grant of \$1000, will make this our biggest year to date. So we are looking forward to many volunteer hours of fun along the Skeleton Creek sites ☺

SUNDAY 22 FEB - MULCH SPREADING AT MERTON STREET, ALTONA MEADOWS

We will be spreading mulch and, depending on time, removing some weeds, guards and stakes.

We will be working at the Merton St end - near the timber seat Hobsons Bay Council installed for us.

Easiest entry is from Merton St, then walk along the shared path to the right, until you find our sign-in table (100m or so towards Selwood Place).

Please wear sturdy shoes, a hat, and gloves if possible. If you can bring a barrow, that would be good, if not, just bring yourself!

WYNDHAM CITY COUNCIL GRANTS & VOLUNTEER EXPO – THU 19 FEB

We will have an information table there on the 19th. All are welcome.

Where: Wyndham Civic Centre (Function Rooms), 45 Princes Hwy, Werribee

Time: Drop in between 3pm and 8pm

http://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/residents/community/grants_volunteer_expo

FACEBOOK

Member Peta Keown is now working on getting our group Facebook page up and running. An email has gone out to our members and volunteers seeking permission to use their photos on our Facebook page. No names will be used.

This newsletter will have details when the FOSC Facebook page is launched.

PLANTING REPORT

On 12 Feb, Denice and Angela went down to see how our Carinza Ave planting was getting on.

It is a pleasure to report that it is spreading in all directions and looks robust and healthy, despite the hot, dry weather.

This is one of the pleasing results from planting indigenous varieties. We were able to remove 120 stakes and 130 guards for future use at another site.

Unfortunately, we have had a few plants die. Overall, because we planted densely and used plants that spread - all is looking well.



'We planted densely and used plants that spread'

The common reed *Phragmites Australis* (actually a large perennial grass) seems to be getting out of control in some places. To rid these 'invaders', we will see if we can paint them with weedicide.

Despite these minor setbacks, it is a planting we are proud of.



Phragmites Australis are 'invading' our planting

CALENDAR FOR 2015

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

(**Hobsons Bay City Council** activity highlighted in **bold**, Wyndham City Council activity underlined)

Sun 22 February - Mulch spreading at end of Merton St, Altona Meadows

Sun 22 March - Planting at Kerford Cres, Point Cook (council to supply afternoon tea)

Sun 19 April - Mulch spreading at Merton St / Markham Way, Altona Meadows

Sun 24 May - Planting at Merton St / Markham Way, Altona Meadows

Tues 16 June - Planting at Merton St / Markham Way, Altona Meadows

Sun 28 June - Planting at Carshalton Crt, Hoppers Crossing

Sun 26 July - National Tree Day at Merton St / Markham Way, Altona Meadows

Sun 23 August - Planting at Carshalton Crt, Hoppers Crossing

Sun 27 September - Weeding / Maintenance at Kerford Cres, Point Cook

Sun 25 October - Mulch spreading (if needed) at Merton St / Markham Way, Altona Meadows

Sun 22 November - Weeding at Clarendon Crt, Seabrook

Note: As usually happens, we may need to make adjustments close to the time of each activity.

The next FOSC meeting is on Wed 4 March, 7:30 pm, at the Old School House, Laverton (corner of Kiora St and Cameron Av).