

Friends of Skeleton Creek & Altona Bay Wetlands Inc.



President	Secretary	Treasurer	PO Box 452 Laverton Vic 3028
Angela Whiffin	Denice Perryman	Ewen Cowie	
angelawhiff@hotmail.com	deniceperryman1@gmail.com	friendsofskeletoncrk@gmail.com	Incorporation No. A0029721P
Tel 93692892	Tel 93158072	Tel 93158603	

June 2015 Newsletter

UPCOMING ACTIVITY:

MIDWEEK PLANTING TUESDAY 16 JUNE - 10 AM TO 12 PM

This planting is for some people who might be tied up with family and friends at the weekend but may be free during the week. We will again be working in the area between Merton St and Markham Way, Altona Meadows.

Entry will be closer from the Merton St end, so we will meet and register there. We plan to put in 200 plants. This will bring our total up to 635 plantings at Merton St/Markham Way for this year. Refreshments will be served. (Melway Ref: Map 208, E4)

A BUMPER PLANTING DAY IN MAY

A bumper planting day was held along Merton St/Markham Way, Altona Meadows, adjacent Skeleton Creek, on Sunday 24 May.

We had 435 holes pre-augured ready with plants, stakes and guards laid out.

"I had a moment's hesitation and thought, 'What if no planters turn up?', commented Denice Perryman. "I could be planting for weeks! I quickly pulled myself together, pasted on a smile and at 1 pm it started to happen.

"All and sundry heeded our calls and 26 willing bodies turned up to help. This was fantastic! So 435 plants went



Some of the 26 willing hands helped to put in 435 plants at the bumper planting day on 24 May in Altona Meadows

into the 435 holes, and we weren't even rained on. That came down a few days later," she added.

Many thanks are due.

Firstly, to Narpinder Kaur and Dera Sacha Sauda group for their continuing help; John Dawes for the publicity; Andrew Webster, Senior Conservation Ranger, Hobson's Bay City Council, for abandoning his family on what was supposed to be his day off; Elizabeth Simpson for staffing our sign-in table and making our group known to passers by; Angela Whiffin for the essential plants; and Ewen

Cowie, Denice and Angela for the pre-hole digging. In an unheard of occurrence we even ran out of afternoon tea, which was unbelievable. Having double the helpers was what did it!

“It is most gratifying that we’re now getting a group of local people who turn up on a regular basis to help”, commented Denice. “I have been calling them ‘residuals’, but decided it sounds like something left in a bottle! A friend suggested ‘repeat offenders’, but I didn’t like this either.

“Maybe ‘boomerangs’ would fit. Can anyone out there come up with a better name? These are exactly the people who make a group like ours work and I’d love to have the most appropriate description or word for these special people!” [Suggestions welcome :)]

CARSHALTON COURT, HOPPERS CROSSING PLANTING, SUNDAY 28 JUNE

Our normal monthly planting will be held at Carshalton Court in Hoppers Crossing from 1 pm to 3 pm. We have been working at doing a dense, grassy revegetation in this area, and Maddie Veale our Wyndham City Council Conservation Officer is preparing to expand the area planted. (Melway Ref: Map 203, A7)

HOBSON’S BAY COUNCIL COMMUNITY FUND \$1000 GRANT

We have decided to spend our grant money in between Merton St and Markham Way, Altona Meadows. This is our focus area for this year. We thought some intensive planting next to the ‘Denice Perryman Seat’, along the shared path, would be a good idea.

This seat is well used, adjacent to an opening and lovely view, with foreground rocks, to a wide Skeleton Creek. With 200 plants to go in, we should be able to make this area even more attractive.

PLANNING FOR 2016 ... AND REPORTING THE CREEPING OXALIS

We are starting to think of preparation of our sites for 2016. Andrew Webster, Senior Conservation Ranger, Hobson's Bay City Council, has asked us to keep a look out at Clarendon Court, Seabrook, for the *Creeping Oxalis weed in the June/July months; we have noted already that a “good crop” of Oxalis weed is already appearing. Out-of-control creeping couch grass will also be monitored.

The Friends’ reporting is for Andrew to organise spraying in the appropriate window. There will also be some removal of old woody and damaged plants.

**Creeping Oxalis (Oxaliscorniculata) has tiny clover to heart shaped leaves that form roots wherever the stems touch the ground. It’s a common weed of lawns, and because the stems creep under lawn runners of Buffalo, Kikuyu and Couch, it is hard to eradicate.*

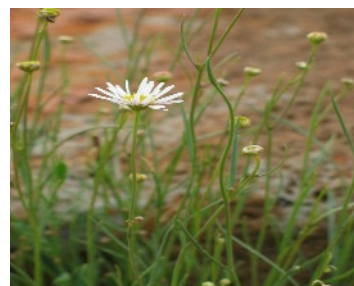


ANGELA’S PLANT OF THE MONTH

BASALT DAISY

Brachyscome
basaltica var.
gracilis

By Angela Whiffin



This pretty little daisy is 30 cm to 60 cm high. It is slender with erect stems and narrow, light green leaves and white daisy flowers in Spring and Summer - although it’s currently Winter, it’s flowering at the Newport Lakes Nursery (*pictured below*); we have noticed that the current seasons have a lot of plants confused!

The Basalt Daisy prefers a sunny situation in moist soils and is ideal for bog gardens, where it forms drifts



and will flower prolifically. It suckers easily, but is not suitable for permanently dry soils. This plant was once common in grassy wetlands, drainage lines and swamp margins and is indigenous to the Basalt Plains.

Reference: ‘Plants of Melbourne’s Western Plains’, 2nd Edition

FRIENDS OF SKELETON CREEK FACEBOOK PAGE

VISIBILITY OF MEMBERS POSTS

If you’ve ‘Liked’ our Facebook page you may have noticed the difference in how it works to your own or other Facebook pages.

Unless you’re an administrator or approved editor, you cannot post or comment to the FoSC Facebook Page - but only “like” or comment to what’s already posted by the administrator or approved editor. The FoSC Facebook, which was recently set up by FoSC volunteer Peta Keown, is a Community Page and not a Group Page, which functions differently.

With Pages, the administrator’s posts show up on members newsfeeds, but visitors and members posts do not. Instead, members posts appear in a box on the side of the Page in condensed form, although it is posted on your own Facebook’s newsfeed, so your Friends will see your post. As the FoSC Facebook is new, Peta is taking a cautious approach and has decided to leave the page as is for the time being. However, she quickly approves and shares any information that people post, so don’t be put off from getting involved on our Facebook Page.

“We may change this plan, if lots of people post”, she said. Peta is now supported by John Dawes, who is now an Editor of the Page. The FoSC Facebook Page can be found at: www.facebook.com/friendsofskeletoncreek

POINT COOK ROAD UNDERPASS UPDATE

The Point Cook Rd underpass is in the process of being fixed. A pump has been purchased to remove the water that builds up. So all that remains is for Powercor to connect electricity to the pump so the job can be finished.

We thank our Wetlands Ward Councillors, Mayor Colleen Gates and Carl Marsich, for actioning this flooding problem.

FIFTEEN TREES NOT IN THE PLAN

Fifteen Trees community project contacted our group recently. The organisation connects local companies with conservation workers to get donations and interest flowing to local works.

Wyndham City Council investigated the possibilities of placing 90 trees.

We have now been advised by the Council that these trees could not be accommodated in its landscape plan so, unfortunately, we will not be proceeding with the Fifteen Trees project offer.

FRIENDS SPREAD THE WORD AROUND LAVERTON

If you've read the latest June 'Around Laverton' Community Newspaper, you would have noticed the article on Page 18, written by our Publicity Officer John Dawes.

The full page article, with photos, is about our work at Carinza Ave, Altona Meadows, as well as on Skeleton Creek, the FoSC conservation activities and the shared bike/walking trails along the Creek.

"I read the article and thought that I wouldn't mind joining that group!" commented Denice.

The link to the June issue of 'Around Laverton' is at http://www.aroundlaverton.com.au/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Around-Laverton-Issue-355-June-2015_online.pdf

DOGGY DOO PROBLEM FOLLOW UP

As reported in our May Newsletter, we worked with Seabrook Primary School for a day and hosted 150 Grade 3 and 4 students to do planting, and look at pollution and water bugs in the Creek.

As part of this activity we took the students on a walk to look at a catchment pond and litter trap along the Creek. While we were doing this we talked about litter and rubbish.

We have to say we were totally embarrassed at the amount of dog poo that students had to walk around (not always successfully). They correctly identified dog poo as a polluter of waterways and a factor in the excessive growth of Phragmites (the common reed) along the Creek.

As a result of this day, Denice wrote to both Hobson's Bay City Council and Wyndham City Council about the lack of bins and doggy-doo bags in this area.

She also suggested that Council Rangers educate dog owners of their responsibilities concerning dog litter. ☒

FRIENDS OF SKELETON CREEK

2015 CALENDAR

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

(Hobson's Bay City Council activity highlighted in bold, Wyndham City Council activity underlined)

Tues 16 June - Planting between Markham Way / Merton St, Altona Meadows, 10 am to 12 pm

Sun 28 June - Planting at Carshalton Crt, Hoppers Crossing

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

Sun 23 August - Planting at Carshalton Crt, Hoppers Crossing

Sun 27 September - Weeding / Maintenance at Catalina Court, Point Cook

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

Sun 22 November - Weeding at Clarendon Crt, Seabrook

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

The next FOSSC meeting is on Wed 1 Jul 7:30 pm, at the Old School House, Laverton (corner of Kiora St and Cameron Av).



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

Newsletter Publication Details

- Editorial content provided by Denice Perryman
- Edited and produced by John Dawes, using Serif PagePlus DTP software
- Published as a PDF file and distributed electronically to FoSC newsletter mailing list recipients

Contributions to the newsletter are welcome.

Please send to:

friendsofskeletoncrk@gmail.com

Newsletter Distribution List

Email Changes? Unsubscribe?

If you want to advise of a change to your email address or unsubscribe from this newsletter, please email Friends of Skeleton Creek Publicity Officer with the necessary details to:

friendsofskeletoncrk@gmail.com