

---

# Newsletter

## March 2017

---

# FRIENDS OF SKELETON CREEK

Volunteers restoring our local creek



### **APRIL WORKING BEES**

**Tuesday 11th April, 10 am to 12 pm**  
**Old signage rejuvenation & planting, Labassa Way/Bowood Ct, Seabrook**

[Melway Map 208 C2]

Our old signage needs rejuvenating (including removal of our former Laverton PO Box postal address on it).

Also we're going to put in some 20 or so tough "survivor plants". FoSC Secretary Denice Perryman will liaise with the HBCC ranger(s) to come with the appropriate equipment and paint for the signage transformation. Volunteers are advised to wear suitable clothing for sanding, painting and planting.

Denice will supply soup and rolls. Further enquiries to Denice Perryman on 0429 167 013 or [deniceperryman1@gmail.com](mailto:deniceperryman1@gmail.com)

**Sunday 23rd April, 1 pm to 3 pm**

**Site Rejuvenation, Emu Foot Grasslands, Spicer Blvd, Altona Meadows**

[Melway Map 208 C2]

This activity will be in the remnant grasslands maintained within the fenced-off area at the western end of Spicer Blvd. Details of the rejuvenation work to be advised, while we finalise the nature of the work with the Hobsons Bay Council rangers.

As always, afternoon tea will be provided. Further enquiries to Denice Perryman on 0429 167 013 or [deniceperryman1@gmail.com](mailto:deniceperryman1@gmail.com)

### **Our Nine New Signs Star!**

Now that our nine new interpretive signs have been installed along Hobsons Bay Council's side of the creek, we've had a boost in publicity from the Maribyrnong & Hobsons Bay Star Weekly. The story's at: <http://www.starweekly.com.au/news/a-sign-of-friendship/>

### **Have you liked our FoSC Facebook Community Page yet?**

It's regularly updated with the latest news, events and photos. Go to: <https://www.facebook.com/friendsofskeletoncreek/>



**Sunday 26th March.** At our new site at **Bromage Close, Hoppers Crossing** - a 70 m extension just north of our previous plantings, we had 18 volunteers spread loads of mulch delivered by our Wyndham City Council Open Space Community Engagement Officers, Darren and Sal. We will be planting there in the cooler months. It was a warm day and we were replenished by frequent drink breaks, including delicious fresh chilled cut-up fruit, provided by Denice Perryman, followed at the end of the day by the customary afternoon tea.

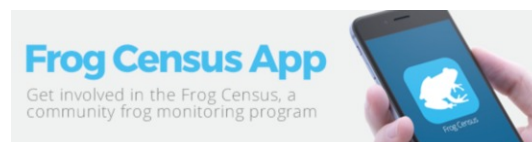


### **The Frogs of Wyndham**

**Saturday 18th March.** Denice Perryman spoke at a Wyndham Council outdoor activity (as part of its Green Series) along the creek at Point Cook, organised by Madeline Veale, Wyndham's Natural Environment Officer.

James Frazer, from Melbourne Water's Frog Census team, spoke about frogs in general - and the endangered Growling Grass Frog in our creek specifically.

James's team are after "citizen scientists" to record and send in frog calls to increase frog knowledge. Melbourne Water has a smartphone 'Frog Census App' for this purpose ([click on link to webpage below](#)). There was also a "build your own frog pond" demonstration. "I have never met a more informed bunch of children asking intelligent questions," says Denice.



## Suburbs to Sea – Our Bay, Our Jewel



**Friday 17th March.** The Friends of Skeleton Creek joined other local conservation groups at Wyndham Council's 'Suburbs to Sea – Our Bay, Our Jewel' (part of the Green Living Series) at the Wyndham Civic Centre.

Organised by Wyndham Council and Bruce Boddington (Point Cook Open Spaces), the evening featured the “must see” 'Melbourne Down Under' documentary, showing how Port Phillip Bay is a marine environment with stunning colour and diversity that rivals tropical reefs. Sheree Marris, the filmmaker and marine enthusiast, presented the documentary and later answered questions.

Our group was represented by John Dawes, Denice Perryman, Kristine Konings and Angela Whiffin (pictured



above). We also used our newly updated FoSC promotional and display materials to great effect. We signed up two new members and a number of interested people added their name to our mailing list.

The 'Melbourne Down Under' documentary is available as a book and DVD (click on image opposite for more information).

### Wild Melbourne's Community Conservationists Project - FoSC's Contribution

We have submitted a 500-word story on how our group is contributing to the conservation of Victoria's plants, animals and ecosystems.

Funded by the Norman Wettenhall Foundation, five different community groups will be chosen and Wild Melbourne will film a short video, telling the group's story on how it's achieving its conservation outcomes. Successful applicants will be notified by 30th April 2017.

The 500-word text, prepared by Denice Perryman and John Dawes, follows:

## Friends Tour Sculpture Park



**Wednesday 22nd March.** One of the FoSC social excursions planned for this year took us to the **McClelland Sculpture Park+Gallery** in Langwarrin, near Frankston.

Our excellent guide Gus provided a wonderful insight into selected sculptures. After the tour we had a pleasant lunch in the park's cafe.



Dame Elisabeth Murdoch was an active supporter and big contributor to the sculpture park since its inception in 1971. Worth a visit! <http://mcclellandgallery.com/>  
Thank you for organising, Denice Perryman :)

*Our group formed in 1991 with the aim of:*

- *Conserving, protecting and enhancing the creek and its catchment*
- *Educating the community and schools groups about the creek and the need to conserve it*
- *Enhancing the connection to our community with the environment*

*We started with a few volunteers in regular attendance (two of the original founders, Denice Perryman and Angela Whiffin, were recognised by Hobsons Bay City Council for 25 years of service in 2016).*

*Today, we have a core group of around 20, mainly retirees.*

*Continued next page*

*Wild Melbourne's Community Conservationists Project - FoSC's Contribution. Continued from Page 2*

*We have up to 40 volunteers coming along to a working bee, depending on the activity.*

*Skeleton Creek originates in a rural area near Mount Cottrell, west of Caroline Springs, and runs through the new urban developments of Tarneit, Truganina, Hoppers Crossing, Point Cook, Seabrook, and Altona Meadows.*

*The creek mouth is the Cheetham Wetlands, a Ramsar site of international significance for migratory birds, and then flows into Port Phillip Bay.*

*The creek covers two council areas: Wyndham City Council and Hobsons Bay City Council.*

*Creek fauna includes diverse bird species, the more common being ducks and swans, Rakali (native water rodent) and many species of frogs.*

*Our creek has picturesque bike and walking paths that link with trails to the city.*

*Our regular activity is a monthly working bee (except for January), usually held on a Sunday for two hours from 1 pm to 3 pm, when we come together to improve the creek and catchment by planting, weeding, mulch spreading, watering or rubbish collection.*

*We run education and planting days for local schools and are represented at other environmental group events and at various local government forums.*

*Most of our grants come from Melbourne Water to carry out revegetation work along the creek.*

*This year we have signed off on \$15,000 of revegetation work in both Hobsons Bay City and Wyndham City councils.*

*We have developed excellent working relationships with the conservation departments with both local councils and Melbourne Water, as well as Parks Victoria.*

*In the past few years, we have revegetated three sites with indigenous plants in Hobsons Bay, and, in Wyndham, we have worked to improve 70 m of Growling Grass Frog habitat along the creek in Hoppers Crossing, with indigenous revegetation and rocky protection.*

*In 2016 we had 12 activity days and put in around 4000 indigenous plants.*

*To further enhance the local biodiversity, we also installed six microbat boxes (funded by the Altona Lions Club) along the creek in Altona Meadows.*

*In early 2017 we had nine Hobsons Bay Council-funded interpretive signs installed at various scenic points along the Skeleton Creek shared trail. The themes and design of the signs were developed by Friends of Skeleton Creek volunteer members.*

*The nine new interpretive signs further support our aim of public education and connection to the open spaces and enhancing their experience along the creek.*

*After a working bee we always serve afternoon tea, which gives volunteers more time to talk and for new people to become more acquainted.*

*We are very sociable and welcoming and have developed a solid group of actual friends who enjoy working together in restoring our beautiful local waterway.*

*Our group's e-newsletter is distributed to 179 recipients and we have 289 Facebook Community Page members (and growing). We aim to maintain our core volunteers while attracting and growing the group.*

## **Friends of Skeleton Creek**

### **Calendar of Activities 2017**

*This is our calendar of activities for both Hobsons Bay and Wyndham City councils in 2017.*

*\* 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***

#### **Tuesday 11 April, 10 am to 12 pm**

Labassa Way, Seabrook  
Sign rejuvenation and shrub planting

#### **23 April**

Spicer Blvd, Altona Meadows (Emu Foot Grasslands), rejuvenation of site

#### **28 May**

Spicer Blvd, Altona Meadows (Emu Foot Grasslands), rejuvenation of site

#### **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 (Emu Foot Grasslands), rejuvenation of site

#### **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



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

## Visited out Facebook Community Group?



It works like a community notice-board. 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](http://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 webpage, 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](http://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.
4. The basic privacy settings and tools then can be looked at and applied. Follow this link: <https://www.facebook.com/help/325807937506242>

### 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)

## 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)

**F**riends of Skeleton Creek meetings are held the first Wednesday in the month (except January), starting at 7:30 pm, Old Laverton School, Altona Meadows (corner Kiora St and Cameron Ave).

The next FoSC meeting will be on Wednesday 5th April.

All Welcome.

## Friends of Skeleton Creek Committee

Secretary	President	Vice President / Publicity Officer
Denice Perryman <a href="mailto:deniceperryman1@gmail.com">deniceperryman1@gmail.com</a>	Angela Whiffin <a href="mailto:angelawhiff@hotmail.com">angelawhiff@hotmail.com</a>	John Dawes <a href="mailto:dawesj2@gmail.com">dawesj2@gmail.com</a>
Tel 0429 167 013, 93158072	Tel 0430 551 631, 93692892	Tel 0408 663 376
Treasurer	Postal Address	Facebook Community Page
Ewen Cowie <a href="mailto:de.cowie@bigpond.net.au">de.cowie@bigpond.net.au</a>	12 Hopetoun Court Altona Meadows 3028	Administrator John Dawes
Tel 93158603	CAV Incorporation No. A0029721P	Friends of Skeleton Creek Email
		<a href="mailto:friendsofskeletoncrk@gmail.com">friendsofskeletoncrk@gmail.com</a>