

Royal Park Protection Group



Royal Park Protection Group Inc

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ROYAL PARK PROTECTION GROUP (RPPG) GIVEN AT THE AGM ON 23rd OCTOBER 2021

The last year has been rather trying for everyone and has also limited the external activities of our group. A summary of the issues RPPG has been involved in are outlined below:

Activities over the past year included:

- **Pavilion Upgrades**
 - Submissions were made to alter some of the design aspects of the proposals. Specifically to ensure no loss of parkland and for the design to conform with the natural parkland form.
 - Brens Pavilion has now been approved (Aug 21) without amendment.
- **Tram Substation Upgrade** – The tram substation on Flemington Rd adjacent to the RCH is to be replaced with a larger building to improve supply to tram network. It is roughly 3 times longer than the existing.
- **Lighting of Bike Paths** – no update this period.
- **Overshadowing Policy Review Amdt C278** – submission made. The hearings were held in September 2021. CoM supported amendments and now going to Planning Minister. Outcome still pending.
- **Archiving of Records** – we are trying to find a repository for our records and are currently waiting on word from the State Library (still pending)
- **RP Stakeholders Networking Meetings** – a “regular” networking meeting has been established where most of the RP groups and facilities are meeting to discuss plans and issues that effect RP. There have been 2 meetings to date.
- **Zoo Carparking** – nothing has progressed on this matter.
- **Zoo Floodlights** – The Zoo installed extensive floodlighting on the southern perimeter for staff safety. They were very intrusive. A complaint was made and the Zoo have now been forced to apply for permits to which we have lodged objections. Still pending.
- **CoM Transport Study** – Published September 2019. This is looking at access, use of space and severance and we understand was initiated by the Zoo and Sports Clubs as they are pushing for more parking. This covers roads, public transport, bike paths and parking in the park. The aim of the study is to “reduce severance; release space and increase access; increase the coherence of the Park especially the Australian landscape”. We are concerned

that passive users seem to have been missed in the assessment which may skew the results. The CoM presentation may be accessed on their website.

Grants

- The Federal Grant received in 2019 was finally completed as follows:
 - Bren's Remnant Planting - We were finally able to undertake this planting during April and May.
 - Three walking tours for Royal Park were prepared and appended to the Parkville Association App - "Parkville Heritage Walks".

Other

- Royal Park during restrictions
 - Lots of people using the Park - a bit of relief from the grind of lockdowns!
 - A number of issues with motor bike riders arose. Mountain bikers making up jumps and damaging areas "off path"

Meetings

- A General Meeting with Dr Luis Mata on "Demonstrating the benefits of indigenous plants for indigenous insect pollinators" was held in March.
- The meeting with Dr Lindy Lumsden on Microbats was cancelled due to the restrictions and is still to be rescheduled.

Community Involvement:

- Working bees are held every third Wednesday of the month with park officer Chris Nicholson and Friends of Royal Park. We meet (usually) at Walmsley House at 10am for a 2 hour session. Everyone welcome.
- We had a great turnout for the Brens Remnant Planting. It was planned to extend the planting in August but due to COVID restrictions this did not occur. As the plants for this were ready to go we got Serco to put these in on our behalf.
- We are planning to extend the Brens planting in April 2022.

Website/Facebook: We hope that this has been of use to people as a repository of information on the park as well as highlighting activities. If you have any suggestions for improvements please let us know.

Royal Park Cards

We wish to thank our Committee member Margaret Jungwirth for all the effort put in to prepare cards which have been a great hit with the community at large. Thanks to Lynne Oliver for keeping the supply up to the Parkville PO.

Also, thanks to Lynne Oliver, Margaret Jungwirth, Michele Summerton and Anne Phefley for attending our stall at the Flemington Farmers Market.

We would also like to give a special thankyou to Anne Phefley, our Secretary for all the work she does in organising us, the events, the catering and just about everything else!

I would like to end by thanking all our RPPG members, friends and allies for their continued support and assistance over the years with all the hard work involved in rallies, protests, blockades, publicity stunts, attending meetings and keeping the Government and Council under constant surveillance .

As usual I will end with a well known quote from Patrick White at a 1972 Rally, Centennial Park, Sydney.

"Your parks are your breathing spaces. Guard them, cherish them. Parkland is valuable and greedy eyes see the money in it. So you must always be on the alert. Hang onto your breathing spaces in this developing and already over-congested city. Protect your parks from the pressure of political concrete."

Paul Leitinger Convenor Royal Park Protection Group August 2021