

Royal Park Protection Group



*Preservation
through vigilance*

Royal Park Protection Group Inc

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Dear Members and Friends,

Just an update on what has been happening in Royal Park.

General Members Meeting

The next **General Meeting** has again had to be moved due to Covid restrictions. After many cancellations we hope that Dr Lindy Lumsden will introduce us to microbats on **Saturday August 28th**. Hopefully restrictions will allow the meeting to take place this time.

Brens Remnant Revegetation

As you will be aware we received a Federal Government grant for revegetating the Brens remnant area. The planting for the grant is now complete.

The layout used was based on a small intense planting in one section using jute matting as a weed suppressant. The planting area will be surrounded by extra matting to act as further protection for the planting with this being itself planted in the future.

There will be a further in-fill planting in late August. The date will be determined by the plant delivery.

Thank you to everyone who took part including:

- Those from the local community.
- Members of the Shah Satnam Ji Greens Welfare Force who came along to assist in the second planting, and
- Thank you to the Urban Camp who gave us access to toilet facilities.

When you have a chance do visit the site which is just below the Urban Camp.

The first planting took place on April 17th with 2 plantings of one and a half hours; starting at 10 and one at 12. This was well attended and about 1,000 plants were planted. It was a lovely sunny day.

The photographer from Inner City News attended and there was an article in the paper.

The second planting was on Sunday May 16th. We were pleasantly surprised to have a large contingent from the Shah Satnam Ji Greens Welfare force come to assist. With their assistance the remaining planting of over 1,000 plants was completed in the first session!

Those who came at 12 did a large amount of weeding around the planting area.

Members for Melbourne Adam Bandt (Federal) and Ellen Sandell (State) attended with children in tow who got involved in the planting! Adam presented us with a certificate for the work as well (Adam's office were instrumental in helping us obtain the funding for this work).

The final planting was on Sunday June 20th where people who would have planted in May were invited to put in the last 200+ plants. Here are pictures from both plantings.



First Planting



Presentation



Second Planting



Second planting



Final planting gaps
for in fill



Weeders at work Notice the plant density

Park "App"

Part of the grant entailed developing an App to encourage people to visit the park. This has been added into the "Parkville Heritage Walks" app which was put out via the Parkville Residents Association. There are 3 walks in the Park:

- Royal Park Wetlands Walk
- Royal Park Billabong
- Royal Park Native Garden

We plan to expand this over coming months but would invite you to visit the walks and give us your ideas for improvement or other walks.

Just go to the App store and download.

Media

Inner City News Article – "Community plants 2000 new plants at Royal Park" - words by

Katie Johnson

ENVIRONMENT

Thousands of native plants have been planted at Royal Park in a community effort to bring native vegetation and wildlife back into the space.

With the help of a \$12,000 grant from the federal government, The Royal Park Protection Group (RPPG) planted 2000 new plants into Brens remnant and invited locals to come and participate.

RPPG secretary Anne Phefley said the planting project brought back the native bush feel in the park which had been lost over time.

"This special space amazingly still holds remnant vegetation, but we're going to be planting native plants that are part of the palate of the park that they believe would have been there before," Ms Phefley said.

As part of the federal government's Communities Environment Program 2019, the Royal Park Protection

Group was given the grant to plant native plants such as kangaroo grass, gold dust wattle, and hedge wattle.

The 2000 new plants have been sourced from all over Victoria from areas including Diggers Rest, Thomastown and Galada Tamboore.

Ms Phefley said that the new plantings would entice small birds and other native wildlife to dwell in the main section of the park. "There's a fabulous population of blue wrens in the wetlands but they won't come into the main part because they're often scared off by cats and other animals when they don't have enough protection," Ms Phefley said. "We want to plant native prickly plants which provide good protection for birds and recreate the native habitat which would have been there before it was destroyed." Due to development projects and destruction by park owners over the past few decades, Ms Phefley said the protection group's goal was to educate the public about the significance of Royal Park. "Some of the plants have survived, but not everybody looks at bush land and recognises the significance," Ms Phefley said. "Just recently a whole lot of trees were taken out and someone put a bike jump and ripped up all the dirt." Ms Phefley encouraged the community to come and participate in upcoming plantings as it was an initiative that generations to come would be able to appreciate. "There's so much joy in being able to contribute to the park and then come back and look at what you've done," Ms Phefley said. "You can think 'we did that!' which is so satisfying."

Gardening Australia

We were thrilled to see the Gardening Australia program featuring Royal Park.

If you missed it, it can be seen through IVIEW 32 11 about 29 minutes in.