

Hello everyone,

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

### **Brens Remnant Area**

As you will be aware we received a Federal Government grant for revegetating the Brens remnant. This planting was in 3 sessions and 2,594 plants were put in.

The infill planting scheduled for late August ran afoul of the lockdown. The community planting could not happen but the plants needed to be in the ground so it was arranged that Serco staff would put them in.

It has rained lots and the plants have grown lots. The weeds too have grown lots!

There have been 2 weeding bees so far and the area is looking really good. Thank you to those who were able to come. Lots of daisies, chocolate lilies and trigger plants flowering and the blue devils just ready to flower. The kangaroo apples, planted outside the jute, are also in flower. Interesting to see how the jute matting is barely visible for the first plantings.

Well worth a visit!

To fill in the planting, new plants have been ordered for April 2022.



### **General Member Meetings**

The General meeting in March should finally see us able to gather to hear about microbats. The proposed date is **Saturday March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022** at Walmsley House

The General Meeting planned for June will have an update on the development of the revised Master Plan for the park.

### **Royal Park Stakeholders Group**

Another meeting of the Royal Park Stakeholders group was held. The main items were:

- Zoo upgrading back of house holding facilities
- Zoo vision 2030 being developed (early days...need to get funding to begin)
- Zoo safety lighting
- CoM - Royal Park Master Plan. Now scheduled for July 2022.
- CoM – Transport Plan to be reviewed and Parking Management Plan to be done next.
- CoM – Conservation Management Plan to be underway.
- SNHC redevelopment focussed on community rather than just elite sport

Zoo lighting proposed on the SE corner of the Zoo was deemed excessive. Dr Barry Clark (an expert on lighting) attended this meeting and proposed other measures that could be used. Zoo management now have committed to relook at the proposal and will keep in contact with Barry for guidance. Also, after meeting FoRP reminded CoM and Zoo management that movement sensor lights could also be used as done near the RP Station path.

### **Plantings**

The City of Melbourne has been very active in the park with plantings in many sites including The Avenue, Elliot Ave, Well over 200.000 plants have been put in to increase biodiversity.

The planting in Gatehouse Street of about 1 million seeds has resulted in a beautiful meadow of wildflowers and grasses. This was a project to determine the best method for planting understory in the park. Using the most successful method this planting will be extended to Morrah Street in April. If you have the chance it is well worth a visit.

### **Damage to trees**

Several trees have been damaged in what appears to be an attempt to cut out a shield shape. Jenny Petinatos found this one in November but then 8 were found in total. Damage was reported to the Council and Park Rangers by FoRP. Thank you to Kaye Oddie and Primrose Lentin for following this up.



### **Something different....**

We have permission to publish an extract of a lovely poem on the website.

It is **Royal Park** by **Lisa Gorton** and published by Giramondo Publishing.

We hope the extracts will encourage people to read the poem in its entirety and consider the history of our wonderful park.

The day he sailed for England, La Trobe rode his horse around this place and called it park-bounded to the west, in Hoddle's map, by a wavery line of circles-Monee Monee's Creek-a Chain of Ponds'- 'Mur-nong or Mirr-n-yong' may be seen growing on the banks of the Moonee Ponds' .....

Enough sky here to watch where clouds come in over the motorway on slow dissolves of rain-Once in late-winter Burke's cavalcade rode past this place, 'Burke leading on his grey horse, singing "Cheer boys, cheer" .....

During the past year there have been liberated at the Royal Park Hares, Mynas, Starlings, Sparrows, Blackbirds,- "The carp, tench, roach and dace, and the gold-fish have been introduced and distributed in various locations favourable to their multiplication .....

They dug the railway cutting out by hand, down through the sandstone, its fossil shell remains- extinct nautilus-type molluscs, lampshells, lace corallines- overlaid on sheets of older lava.....

After the First World War they levelled the hill for a playing field where the swamp had been- to create an ordered public recreation area from a previous wilderness.....