



Hello everyone,  
Just a recap of the RPPG meetings and activities in 2022 for your information.

### **Microbats**

Dr Lindy Lumsden was finally able to speak with us about microbats on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Lindy was to come in 2020 but Covid got in the way. Lindy is Principal Research Scientist, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Lindy spoke about the important role bats play including showing us actual microbats up close. Due to their small size, nocturnal behaviour and cryptic roosting habits, these valuable native mammals are rarely seen and are often portrayed negatively in the media. They are, in fact, really cute!



### **Fairy Wrens, Skinks ad Grasshoppers**

On May 28<sup>th</sup> there was a joint meeting with Friends of Royal Park at Walmsley House about Royal Park projects presented by City of Melbourne Sustainability officers and researchers from University of Melbourne.



We heard of the Superb Fairy Wren project where wrens have been banded and the public invited to help track the movements of the wrens. Dr Holly Kirk described the project and how it is hoped it will support the wren population, to date 55 had been banded.

This is a project undertaken by City of Melbourne, BirdLife Australia, RMIT, University of Melbourne and citizens scientists.



As you will have seen in the papers, goats have been introduced to the skink habitat hoping to clear some of the vegetation and improve skink environment. We heard from Dr Julian Brown about the concerns for this regionally significant population. There are plots with differing approaches and will be assessed after a short period.



We also heard the exciting story of the flightless grasshoppers *Vandiemena viatica*.

Dr David Rentz introduced us to matchstick grasshoppers. They look like matchsticks with legs and only move 10 – 15 metres.

Dr Michael White told us how they were located and captured in Diamond Creek in August 2021 and will be relocated to areas in the park.

They hatch in mid summer and mature in Spring. Hopefully they will do well and provide lots of extra food for birds

### **RP Master Plan**

On June 18<sup>th</sup>, Fiona Finlayson came to provide an update on the development of a revised Royal Park Master Plan project. Fiona is Manager Open Space Planning and Green Infrastructure | Parks and City Greening with the City of Melbourne.

Fiona introduced Alicia Otto who will undertake the role while Fiona is on Maternity leave.

Status and plans are given below. Lots of issues we will need to monitor. Questions were raised about lighting and how they will capture the needs and thoughts of passive park users.

### **2019 - 2022**

Destination Management Transport Assessment - complete

- Transport Discussion Paper – complete
- Conservation Management Plan – underway
- Bid for 2022-23 budget – complete
- Engagement Plan
- Communications Plan
- Develop a project brief

## **2022 - 2023 Background / due diligence**

Review (ongoing)

Develop • Parking management plan

- User counts and surveys
- Tree assessment / flora and fauna / ecology assessment
- Feature survey
- Social and recreation values study
- Safety / CPTED audit
- Accessibility audit
- Discussion paper: issues and opportunities Engage (methods TBC)
- Phase 1 identification of values and thematic issues and opportunities. Develop and test vision statements

## **2023 - 2024 Master plan**

Engage (methods TBC)

Engagement (phases 2 and 3) with general community and stakeholders including:

- Parks and Gardens Advisory Committee
- Traditional Owner group
- PTV • Land managers (SNHC, Melbourne Zoo, Urban Camp, Royal Children's Hospital)
- Friends, resident groups and specific interest groups (RPPG, FORP, PPL, AGHS, etc.)
- Sports clubs
- Local community within 800m of Royal Park
- Broader community via Participate Melbourne

Develop • Draft Master Plan for engagement

- Final Master Plan for FMC endorsement

## **Brens Remnant Area**

As you know we received a Federal Government grant for revegetating the Brens remnant. Here is a recap of the planting.

The planting for the grant did not start until April 2021 due to Covid restrictions.

There were further in fill plantings in May June and August. Over 2,200 plants were planted.

Then additional plantings were funded by RPPG.

Weeding bees occurred and additional jute was laid for additional plantings in April and June this year of over 1,000 additional plants.

It has been a great activity involving members, friends and the general community.



Site cleared



Second jute June 2021



June 2022



Last Jute section



August 2022



Hakea in flower