

Royal Park Protection Group



*Preservation
through vigilance*

Royal Park Protection Group Inc

Registration No A0035478L PO Box 197 Parkville 3052

Contacts:

- Convenor - Paul Leitinger 0401 99 2000
- Secretary - Anne Phefley 0412 279 156

Email : royalparkprotectiongroup@gmail.com

Web : <http://royalparkprotect.com.au>

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ROYAL PARK PROTECTION GROUP (RPPG) GIVEN AT THE AGM ON 8th OCTOBER 2022

A summary of the issues RPPG has been involved in are outlined below:

Activities over the past year included:

- **Pavilion Upgrades**
 - Western Pavillion completed
 - Brens Pavilion has now been approved (Aug 21) without amendment.
- **Tram Substation Upgrade** – underway
- **Lighting of Bike Paths** – no update this period.
- **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.
- **Zoo Carparking** – nothing has progressed on this matter.
- **Zoo Floodlights** – The Zoo installed extensive floodlighting on the southern perimeter for staff safety. After meeting with Zoo Dr Barry Clark is now in the loop to advise them on a better lighting option.
- **RP Master Plan** Update to begin this year.
- **Dogs Off Leash Areas** - a continuing discussion to limit areas!
- **Disc Golf** - a disruptive activity trialled earlier this year. No information on if it will continue as yet.
- **Crossing at RP Railway Station** - joint actions PPL/FoRP/RPPG saw CoM allocate funding to design and cost.
- **Website** - changing over to new host.

Grants

- No new grants applied for.

Meetings

- A General Meeting was held in March with Dr Lindy Lumsden on micro bats
- Principal Research Scientist, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

- A General Meeting held in April with Marty Lockett, School of Biosciences, University of Melbourne who spoke about his PhD research on Bell Miners, Eucalypts and Lerps.
- A joint Special General Meeting held in May by the City of Melbourne Urban Sustainability officers and researchers from the University of Melbourne on Royal Park projects talking about Superb Fairy Wren Project; Skink Site Action Plans; 'Mini-beast' Renaturing.
- A General Meeting was held in June with Fiona Finlayson who is Manager Open Space Planning and Green Infrastructure | Parks and City Greening with the City of Melbourne about the update of the Royal Park Master Plan.

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 completed the grant plantings at the Brens Remnant site in May 2021 including some further weeding.
- We were able to institute a further planning on the site. Additional jute was laid and almost 2000 plants added with plantings in August 2021, April and June 2022. In April members of Carlton Rotary joined the planting. Weeding bees took place in March and April. Thank you to the Royal Park team for preparing the site and laying the jute.
- We have gotten some photos from Peter Petinatos and Luis Mata that will be on cards and that we have an invitation out to other photographers.

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 October 2022