

# Royal Park Protection Group



*Preservation  
through vigilance*

## Royal Park Protection Group Inc

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## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ROYAL PARK PROTECTION GROUP (RPPG) GIVEN AT THE AGM ON 12th AUGUST 2023

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 completed
- **Tram Substation Upgrade** – construction underway
- **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 continuing “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 is still to review the lighting in this area. We reminded them that Dr Barry Clark is able to assist.
- **RP Master Plan** Revision is underway. We are actively participating at every opportunity. Having Alicia provide an update at the AGM is just one such opportunity. The Master Plan is critical to the future of the park and ....will address many issues including Parking, Lighting, Dogs off Leash etc.
- **Crossing at RP Railway Station** - joint actions PPL/FoRP/RPPG saw CoM allocate funding to design and cost.... On hold due to level crossing removal
- Level crossing removal in Brunswick joint actions PPL/FoRP/RPPG re impact on Park City of Melbourne active in seeking park protection

### Grants

- No new grants applied for.

### Meetings

- General Meetings were held
  - A joint meeting in March with Isaac Dodd, Park Ranger, City of Melbourne - “City of Melbourne’s Park Rangers and Wildlife response”; and Sheila Byard OAM,

Researcher and project management, Local and Community History, "National Council of Women(Victoria) Affiliates 1988 Bicentennial Planting in Royal Park"

- In June Dylan Nickelson, Senior Urban Forester, Urban Forest and Ecology - *"Trees of Royal Park their past, present and future"*
- AGM in October provided a wonderful presentation by Scott Baker about birds in Royal Park plus an update on the Brens planting by Pete Petinatos
- In July 2023 there was a joint meeting with ForP (Not) Royal Park and A name for Royal Park with Alasdair Vance, Janet McGraw and Andrew Tanner
- Put in your diaries November 18th for the next General meeting when Sophia Blofelds will present her findings from the second planting in Gatehouse Street and the relevance to Royal Park.
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#### **Community Involvement:**

- Working bees are held second Wednesday and fourth Thursday of the month with Friends of Royal Park. We meet (usually) at Walmsley House at 10am for a 2 hour session. Everyone welcome. Details posted on our Facebook site.
- The last 400 plants for the Brens Remnant area were planted in May.

**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**

The cards have been a popular item with the community – all down to the hard work of Marg Jungwirth however, Marg is hanging up the glue stick so (soon...) so if you want some cards then stock up today or buy at the Parkville PO or market! We again thank Margaret for all the effort over many years to prepare these cards.

Thank you to Parkville Post Office for having our card display in a prominent place.

Also, thanks to Michele Summerton and Anne Phefley for attending our stall at the Flemington Farmers Market, now held at Ascot Vale Primary.

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 2023