

Royal Park Protection Group



Royal Park Protection Group Inc

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Hello everyone,

Hope you are enjoying the beautiful blue skies and succeeding in avoiding Covid.

My apologies that this newsletter is so late.

AGM for Financial Year 2021/2022

The AGM was held on October 8th, 2022.

We were treated to a wonderful presentation by Scott Baker about Birding in Royal Park during Covid.

Royal Park became one of the most birded spaces in Australia with 10 to 15 lists of observations put up each day. He had personally listed 134 species and there were 500 entries in total on **ebird**. Many of the birds are migratory such as the Australian Reed Warbler which comes here from Indonesia in Spring and Lathams Snipe which comes from Japan. It was October and he reported that there were lots of young birds in the storage pond but unfortunately, also lots of foxes! Scott introduced us to other birders in his presentation and an amazing display of the birds that had been photographed. For example: the Collared sparrow hawk; peregrine falcon; little eagle; spotted harrier; eastern barn owl; golden headed cisticola; little button quail; rose robin; pink robin; rufous whistler;.....You can see many more by going to "**ebird royal park**" in your browser to see the full collection.

Committee

We welcome Pam Lloyd back to the committee. Tony Ferguson has stepped aside for personal reasons and we thank Tony for his many years of service and support.

Sad news

We have lost 2 long term members of RPPG and great supporters of Royal Park. Graeme Bawden and Nola Frawley. We have sent messages of condolence.

Graeme had been a long serving committee member.

Card Sales

We have been fortunate to be able to continue to sell our cards through the Parkville Post Office and at the Farmers Market at Ascot Vale Primary school. Thanks to Margaret for all her efforts.

We have permission to use some of the images from **ebird** on our cards for which we are most grateful. The mistletoe bird has been a great success and the barn owl will appear this week.



Mistletoe bird



Barn owl

Revegetation of the Brens Drive remnant

We also had a presentation by Pete Petinatos at the AGM showing the progress of the plantings at the Brens remnant. There is another planting planned for this April. Before this we will need to schedule a weeding bee.



Just a few of the images shared

Trial plantings in Gatehouse Street

The trial plantings in Gatehouse Street have been extended to the hospital and look magnificent. We plan to collect some seed and spread it over the weathered jute at Brens remnant creating an infill wildflower meadow.

Found in the park

This year many nodding greenhood orchids have been found in the park plus some sun orchids (*Thelymitra pauciflora*). Most exciting. Locations not disclosed to protect them.



People not doing the right thing in the park – just a reminder

There are a lot more people in the park which is good but it seems that many are not respectful of the various spaces within the park and the people using the park.

The Council has been approached to provide some extra signage and protection.

If you are lucky enough to be able to visit the park and you see anything untoward the telephone hotline 9658 9658 (day time and after hours) to advise the rangers or to seek assistance.

Skyrail threat

There is concern about the threat of damage to Royal Park from Skyrail project planned to remove the rail crossing from Park Street. Many groups have expressed their concern and sort dialogue with the authority. No actual plans are yet available.

Royal Park Master Plan

The latest timeline is a discussion paper second half of 2023 with Draft Master Plan in 2024. We continue to contribute whenever we have opportunity. The Council are placing sensors in the park to better determine usage.

We have asked that the Parkville Heritage walks be added to the City of Melbourne Parkville Neighbourhood portal as the last 3 walks are in Royal Park.