

Royal Park Protection Group



Royal Park Protection Group Inc

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OCTOBER 23 NEWSLETTER

Hello everyone,

Another update on recent activities.

1. AGM - August

We held our AGM on August 12th at Walmsley House.

Our speaker **Alicia Otto – Senior Open Space Planner at City of Melbourne** gave an update on the **Royal Park Master Plan** – you can access the presentation as follows:

<https://royalparkprotect.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/2023-AGM-Presentation-to-RPPG-August-2023.pdf>

Some highlights of the work done so far include:

- Safety audits have been undertaken in the park with community meetings to discuss issues.
- There are sensors in the park to try to determine park usage, which is difficult in comparison to counting the numbers attending sport events! Seats in the native garden had sensors added. The aim is to create a shared multi function parkland supporting movement to, through and from the park.
- Sports lighting has been looked at and hopefully the hockey centre lights are/will be fixed.
- A push for more lighting (by some) in the park is alarming as Royal Park is a dark park. Trees, birds and animals need darkness to survive.
- Parking is being looked at to reduce the overall space taken. Apparently 8 hectares are taken up with parking!
- Unfortunately the road from Brens pavilion to the Avenue has not happened with the redevelopment of the pavilion. Hopefully will be in the future plan.

See presentation for more info.

2. General Meeting - July

A General meeting was held in July in conjunction with Friends of Royal Park.

The meeting was recorded (in 2 parts) and can be found on FoRP YouTube channel

https://youtu.be/GccRKCol_co

<https://youtu.be/5HO7YZjlfSo>

The presentations were:

I. **"(Not) Royal Park" – Recovering the Enduring Importance of a Kulin Nations Gathering Place for Culture, Health, Wellbeing and Healing".**

Presentation by Alasdair Vance, Associate Professor, Child Psychiatry, Royal Childrens' Hospital, University of Melbourne & Janet McGraw, Associate Professor, Faculty of Architecture, Building & Design, University of Melbourne

II. **"A name for Royal Park – Quor-nóng?"** Presentation by Andrew Tanner, Graduate Researcher, Linguistics, La Trobe University.

Some highlights were:

- Royal Park was a Kulun nation intertribal camp ground.
- The park was originally 2,560 acres
- Corroborees were still held in 1840s.
- Collective use by visiting tribes.
- There is little evidence of artifacts.
- There are memories across Victoria of Royal Park.

3. Special Meeting – 28 May

On May 28th, a special meeting was held jointly with Friends of Royal Park regarding projects occurring in Royal Park.

- Superb Fairy Wren Project, undertaken with City of Melbourne, BirdLife Australia, RMIT, University of Melbourne and citizens scientists.
- <https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/community/greening-the-city/urban-nature/Pages/superb-city-wrens.aspx>
- Skink Site Action Plans
- 'Mini-beast' Renaturing – *Vandiemena viatica* to the fore!

Notes on meeting:

- Results of the wren count and goats in the skink area still being evaluated.
- The renaturing appears to have gone well with numbers increasing at most sites.

4. Cards

Card sales continue at Parkville Post Office and we are most grateful for this support. We often mention the sale of cards at the Farmers market in Ascot Vale so Anne P has put the following notes together to give you a flavour of what happens there on a typical Sunday!

- The market organisers allow us to sell our cards and talk to people about the park without any fee.

- I was sitting at our table when a young boy came up to look at the cards. He came back a bit later to buy 2 cards of his favourite birds, especially the kookaburra. He came back later again to ask about many of the birds he did not know!
- Two teenagers came past with the comment “lovely cards but we haven’t any money”
- A mother with 2 girls came. I offered them some bee stickers. One said yes but the other said no I want to buy a card. This she did with her own money. Later she came back with mum saying she would still like some stickers too. Easily fixed!
- There were also our usual supporters stocking up on cards.
- It is a wonderful time to talk to people and encourage them to visit the park.
- This week I had lots of brochures about the wetlands to share.

5. XMAS GET TOGETHER

Xmas Get-together is planned jointly with FoRP, PA and PPL in early December. Possibly a picnic in the ANG, weather permitting. Further details soon.