

DCMC is funded by
Banyule, Darebin,
Whittlesea and
Yarra Councils and
La Trobe University.



Darebin Creek Management Committee Inc.

ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18



President's Report

The past year has seen the culmination of 20 years hard work towards the completion of the final stage of the Darebin Creek Trail linking the Darebin Creek to the Main Yarra Trail. We now have a continuous shared trail pathway along the Darebin Creek to the city centre making commuting a safer and viable option for thousands of residents especially from Cities of Darebin and Banyule. The final Darebin/Yarra link was opened in March 2018. The Parklands division entered into an agreement with Vic Roads to maintain the new link to the Yarra main trail junction in East Kew.

The work of the Parklands and Coordination Divisions has been enriched by community participation in the Darebin Creek Catchment. Friends groups both formal and informal, school and community groups, events and festivals have all been attended by our staff inviting the community to become engaged in work along the Creek and Parklands. Grants also are key to extending the work of the Committee and value adding to the Darebin Creek Catchment.

The Committee has attained Deductible Gift Recipient Status with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission and is now a registered environmental organisation with the Australian Federal Government. I acknowledge the hard work of Phillip Davies and Ranger Peter Wiltshire in achieving this important outcome as it allows DCMC to expand its contribution to the betterment of the Darebin Creek,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Executive Sub Committee members for their additional duties. I would like to thank Alison Breach, Cormac McCarthy and Phillip Davies who have both contributed a lot of time in addressing the required changes that have occurred as a result of the VECCI review.

I would like to acknowledge the major contributions of recently retired Jeff Parkes and Justin Hanrahan who helped guide the DCMC through challenging times and always made themselves available to assist in policy creation and execution.

Staffing remains steady with most staff members having served one, two or three decades, with the exception of the Coordinator Adrian Infanti who has finished up after almost 17 years.

Finally I would like to express my appreciation to all Committee members, funding bodies and staff for their hard work this year and look forward to the year ahead.

Kim Le Cerf
President

Coordinator's Report

This year will be my last Coordinators report, since I am leaving DCMC this week after nearly 17 years working for this wonderful organisation. When I turned up on my first day, there were two little portable buildings with no toilets and over many years, the staff and I have worked patiently to build the Environment Centre into a well recognised, much used and loved local asset. I have enjoyed working with fantastic colleagues and the office culture has created a wealth of long term and happy employees. As for the Darebin Creek, I can only hope my involvement of the past two decades has improved it, and has laid foundations for its long term amenity, use and the preservation of this wonderful waterway corridor for many more generations.

Probably the biggest news of the year was the completion of the lower section of the Darebin Creek Shared Trail, well over 20 years in the making! This event was celebrated with much fanfare as it rightly deserves and a large number of locals, stakeholders and government staff and dignitaries turned out to officially open the trail on 25 March 2018. The new section of trail is wonderful to use and compliments the Darebin Creek linear parklands. Further to this news is the announcement of the creation of the Tee Street Bridge in Bundoora, joining Tee Street and Rathcoun Road. This is another long-term missing link of the trail and will be a great asset for future generations. Banyule Council has added to the Shared Trail news with its commitment to rebuild the poor quality section of path between Banksia Street and Southern Road.

Most recently, the Coordination Division has been working its way through a number of grants that we were successful in attaining. The education program continues to grow and reaches over 5000 students and community members is now reaching a wider audience as can be read in more detail in the Education Report.

Finally, I would to thank Therese Grinter and Peter Grenfell for their hard work this year and wish them well as they continue their good work for the Committee.

Adrian Infanti
Coordinator

Ranger's Report

This year provided the biggest change to Darebin Parklands with the completion and opening of the Darebin/Yarra shared trail link to the Yarra Main trail in East Kew.

The Darebin Parklands now gets accessed from the south by large numbers of people using the new link. This new southern entrance has brought a whole new audience to enjoy the Parklands.

DCMC has entered into a memorandum of agreement with Vic Roads in March 2018 to undertake fortnightly maintenance of the of the new shared trial link from Sparkes Reserve to the junction with the Yarra Main Trail in East Kew. The agreement sees DCMC Rangers patrolling the trail through four Councils, Banyule, Darebin, Yarra and Boroondara.

The Darebin Parklands continues the lead the way with its Bush Kinder and early learning programmes, with every week day now booked with Kindergartens as well as various play groups. Each Kindergarten has entered into a MOU with DCMC with our main Kinders being, Westgarth, Thornbury, Yappera and Yarralea Children's services.

The leachate system treated 15.2 mega litres over the financial year, a reduction from 16.5 mega litres on the last year's figures. The rainfall for the year was 596 mm and below average.

The 'Penthouse for Parrots' programme which incorporates the Indian Myna control project, had success with a reduction of Indian Myna activity in the parklands and an increase in native bird species. Sugar Gliders were recorded in Darebin Parklands for the first time since the Parklands was founded in 1976.

We consolidated our management of Napier Waller and conducted planting and weeding days with Friends of Darebin Creek. The DPA once again proved our great ally, participating in five Park care days helping us plant out new sites. The Thursday Crew turns up 36 weeks of the year and worked in both Snake Grass, Napier Waller and along the creek planting and weeding as required.

The support of Councils, Darebin and Banyule is invaluable and I thank them for their ongoing support of Darebin Parklands and DCMC.

I would like to thank the DCMC Committee, in particular Alison Breach, also welcoming Cormac McCarthy to the Parklands Division, for the guidance and support through a year of challenges.

I'd also like to thank James Garriock and Justin Hanrahan for their assistance with the Vic Roads negotiations. A big thanks to Katy Marriott for her outstanding work all year and again to Phillip Davies for his unwavering support and keeping the books in the black once more.

Peter Wiltshire
Senior Ranger



Catchment Map



Catchment Snapshot

Education

Participation Snapshot

City of Banyule: 12 schools, 1370 students.

City of Darebin: 16 schools, students 2090

City of Whittlesea: 12 schools, students 1513

Other, including City of Yarra: 5 schools, 227 students

This year the Darebin Creek Education Program worked with a total of 45 schools and community groups and over 5200 students and community members. These numbers reflect 2017-18 as the busiest year we've ever had.

The most popular activities were: What is that Waterbug?, Water Testing, and the Catchment Story, along with Fascinating Frogs, Nestbox Habitats, Creek Clean-ups, and Habitat Surveys. The aims of our activities are twofold: firstly, to help participants to learn what lives in and around the creek. This could be through learning about local frogs, what creatures live in tree hollows and nest boxes, or role-playing a day in the life of the creek (The Catchment Story). Secondly, to get participants involved in actively looking after the creek. This could be simply picking up litter, or becoming citizen scientists through testing the water quality, or catching and identifying aquatic macroinvertebrates.

Wider net of schools

This year the DCEP publicised our program to a much larger number of schools than previously, taking in the whole of the Banyule and Whittlesea areas. This involved emailing our updated flyer to schools at the end of each school term. Previously we only publicised our program to schools located within the Darebin Creek sub-catchment area. This has not led to a large uptake of new schools yet.

Gums Along the Creek

This program was aimed at schools within walking distance of the creek, to encourage active stewardship of the creek. Options offered included DCEP stormwater education activities, creek clean-up class sets, nest box construction, and student designed artwork signage with clean stormwater messages. Eleven schools were involved.

Five classes clean up sets were given out to participating schools. Class sets consisted of gloves, tongs, a backpack, digital weight scale, and reusable clean up bags. Twenty-one creek clean-ups were completed with DCMC involvement.

Learnings and future directions

In line with ABC's The War on Waste, we will endeavour to expand our Creek Clean-Ups into Litter Audits – where data can be used by schools and passed onto agencies including Tangaroa Blue's Australian Marine Debris Initiative database. The next step is to target common litter items, for example plastic straws, using a Source Reduction Plan.

Grants

This year two litter grants allowed us the work with schools specifically on litter in the Darebin Creek Catchment. A number of schools took up the Adopt-A-Spot project conducting litter audits, clean ups, bin and drain signage. One of the successes of the project was the litter kits that were given to the schools as part of the project. Now equipped the schools can safely conduct audits and clean ups at their spot along the Darebin Creek.

Shared Trail

After more than two decades of work by many agencies and coordinated by the Committee the Darebin Creek Trail was open across the Yarra River linking it to the Main Yarra Trail. The opening the final bridge spanning the Yarra River on 25 March 2018 attracted a thousand local walkers and cyclists. The Darebin Creek Trail consists of 17 km of continuous off-road shared pathway, linked for the first time to the Main Yarra Trail. This is a great win for the community as it opens up safer cycling options for commuters and links high quality open space for recreational users.

Shopping Trolley Muster

The Shopping Trolley Muster is now in its 16th year, bringing Darebin and Banyule Council Bush crews together to work with Committee Staff. Over this time we have seen a huge reduction in the number of shopping trolleys dumped in the Darebin Creek. The number of trolleys dumped and retrieved went from triple digits to single digits over the period. Over time scooters and motorcycles have replaced trolleys with O-bikes making a short-term appearance.

Community Involvement

The Darebin Creek Catchment has many groups and individuals who are dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of the Darebin Creek's flora and fauna. A group that has recently emerged is the Darebin Creek Sweepers who clean up the Darebin Creek on a regular basis. This adds to the existing groups who have paid membership for the past three decades.

Treasurer's Report

DAREBIN CREEK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE INC
SUMMARY TREASURERS REPORT
FOR YEAR ENDING 30/6/2018

A. Summary

Surplus: \$32,310 compared with \$6,010 in 2017.

Overall the financial position of DCMC remains stable. With our healthy bank balances, DCMC are able to meet all financial obligations as they fall due and we have had a satisfactory audit outcome in the years 2013-2018, the period of our current Auditors, Rankin & Young, appointment.

Several key financial events in the year impacting on the final surplus:

Revenue

- (i) Total Recurring Funding was 6.2% up on the previous year. Banyule Council by 7.9%.
- (ii) Catch up in the previous years recurring funding from Latrobe University, a contribution of \$9,075, net of GST.
- (iii) DCMC received as a result of an EPA ruling a revenue item of \$25,000. This will be used to finance some worthwhile community projects beyond 2018.
- (iv) A new annual agreement with Vic Roads for Darebin Creek Trail maintenance to the merge of Yarra Trail was commenced with the first receipt of \$4,782.

Expenditure/Outgoings

- (i) Staff took several periods of annual and long service leave that impacted on the Provisions in the Balance Sheet.
- (ii) Some significant plant and garden supplies purchases to improve areas like the main park entrance.
- (iii) Additional expense in the calendar year in clearing refuse.

Our cash at bank position including term deposits reduced by \$6,170 in 2018. Overall cash balance at 30/6/2018 \$588,082.

Our bank balances remain satisfactory to meet all commitments as they fall due. Our cash reserves at 30/6/2018 would cover expected outgoings in 2018/19. Recurring funding is expected in the second quarter of 2018/2019.

B. Key items – Income Statement as tabled at AGM

Revenue

- (i) Recurring Funding \$531,111 (6.2 % increase on \$499,887) It is expected that this funding will be 2.2-2.5% higher in 2018/19 depending on a review of Council funding arrangements.

- (ii) Non-Recurring Funding \$24,993 down from \$40,184. due to lower grant income. But this excludes the \$25,000 from the EPA fine in 17/18.

- (iii) Interest Income \$8,412 – a 23% increase.

Expenditure

- (i) Wages: Staff took several periods of leave (against Balance Sheet Provisions) Otherwise overall wage costs were consistent with expected levels.
- (ii) Administration: Most major expenses were consistent with normal activities. New Processes were reviewed by staff and committee in line with VECCI drafts and adopted.
- (iii) Some significant purchases of parks maintenance items improved several park locations. \$6,220 against \$1,560 (2017).
- (iv) Other maintenance. 2018 \$65,924 The significant Equipment maintenance and park vehicles operation expenses were steady against 2017 – \$59,976.
- (v) Leachate Maintenance costs were steady at \$18,129, excluding Depreciation.

C. Key Items – Balance Sheet as tabled at AGM

- (i) Bank Balances – \$588,082.
- (ii) Prepaid Insurances costs are treated as an equal monthly expense allocation.
- (iii) Fixed assets status. Net Balance \$151,903.
- (iv) Net Assets \$501,059 – 2017 \$468,749.
- (v) Liabilities We expect to complete OR progress current grant projects in 2018/19. Balance at 30/6/2018 \$87,219.
- (vi) GST & PayG liabilities are met within the normal deadlines to ATO.
- (vii) The Long Service Leave entitlements (current -10year plus) and <10years (non-current) have been provided for as per the appropriate Legislation and current EBA. Current 2018 \$72,175, 2017 \$85,935.

Phillip Davies
Treasurer

Balance Sheet

AS AT 30TH JUNE 2018

	2018	2017
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	588,082	594,252
Receivables	3,223	0
Prepayments	15,962	15,819
Total current assets	607,267	610,071
Non-Current Assets		
Property, plant and equipment	151,903	167,092
Total non-current assets	151,903	167,092
Total Assets	759,170	777,163
Current Liabilities		
Payables	27,264	48,473
Unexpended Grants	87,219	95,101
Provisions	108,481	129,462
Total current liabilities	222,964	273,036
Non-Current Liabilities		
Provisions	35,147	35,378
Total non-current liabilities	35,147	35,378
Total liabilities	258,111	308,414
Net Assets	501,059	\$468,749
Equity		
Retained surplus	501,059	468,479
Total Equity	501,059	\$468,749

Income Statement

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2018

	2018	2017
Revenue from operating activities	556,104	540,071
Expenditure from operating activities		
Employee benefits expense	372,185	391,493
Depreciation	39,061	40,031
Other expenses	112,548	102,537
Total Income	523,794	534,061
Net surplus for the year	32,310	6,010
Accumulated surplus at the beginning of the financial year	468,749	462,739
Accumulated surplus at the end of the financial year	501,059	\$468,749

Our Mission

The Committee has been established to ensure the preservation, restoration, environmental protection and ecologically sensitive development and maintenance of the Darebin Creek Linear Park.

Membership

City of Banyule
Cr. Craig Langdon
Cormac McCarthy
Jeff Parkes

City of Darebin
Mayor Kim Le Cerf (President)
Alison Breach (Secretary)

City of Whittlesea
Cr Laurie Cox
Mark Williams

City of Yarra
Justin Hanrahan

La Trobe University
Vern Steele

Treasurer and Public Officer
Phillip Davies

Friends Groups
Margaret De Kam
Sophie Anselmi
James Garriock
Michael Bradley

Committee Employees
Peter Wiltshire (Ranger in Charge)
Katy Marriott (Ranger)
Adrian Infanti (Coordinator)
Peter Grenfell (Project Officer)
Therese Grinter (Project Officer)
Candice Sexton (Education Officer, casual)
Catherine Marston (Cleaner)

Volunteers
Michael Mann
DPA Thursday Crew

The Darebin Creek Management Committee acknowledges the Wurundjeri People as the Traditional Custodians of the Darebin Creek Catchment.

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