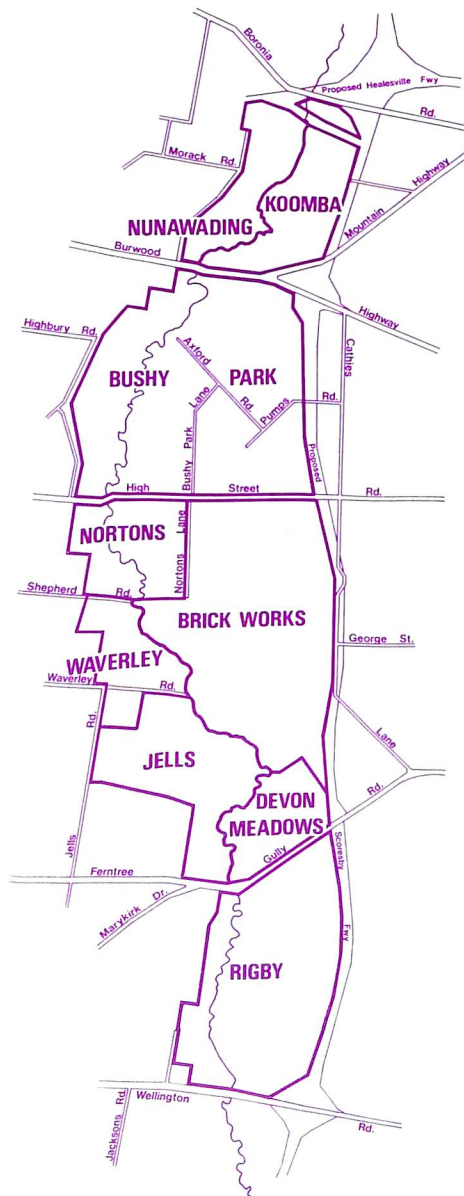
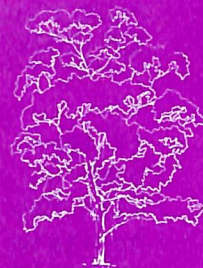




Melbourne
and Metropolitan
Board of Works

Dandenong Valley Metropolitan Park — News

No. 3, Summer, 1985



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DVMP SUB-AREAS



DANDENONG VALLEY METROPOLITAN PARK
HIGH STREET ROAD TO WELLINGTON ROAD

PHOTOGRAPHED IN MARCH 1984

DANDENONG VALLEY METROPOLITAN PARK
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

If there are any matters affecting the DVMP which you would like to raise with the Committee, please do not hesitate to contact a Committee member or write to: The Secretary, Dandenong Valley Metropolitan Park Advisory Committee, C/- MMBW, 625 Lt. Collins St MELBOURNE Vic 3000.

The DVMPAC meets quarterly in February, May, August and November.

Current members are:

MMBW

Mr A R Patterson MBE JP, Chairman
82 2517 (H)

City of Knox

Cr W H Tew MBE JP 758 1273 (H)
Mr R J Ladd 220 8222

City of Waverley

Cr D C McIntosh 277 4260
Mr J N Halford
Deputy City Engineer 560 9011

Department of Youth, Sport and Rec.

Mr R Russell 602 1566 (B)

Advisory Committee Member

Martin Robinson has represented the Dandenong Valley Authority on the Dandenong Valley Metropolitan Park Advisory Committee since 1979. He is a civil engineer who has been particularly concerned with the Authority's role in the further development of flood plain land for community recreation.

He and his wife have two sons and their recreational interests include sailing, hockey and scouting.

City of Nunawading

Mr D Wilson
City Engineer 874 2211

City of Ringwood

Mr A C Robertson
City Engineer 870 4311

Conservation Council of Victoria

Mr B C Loft 561 2381 (H)

Department of Conservation, Forests and
Lands

Mr S W Calder 617 9222

Dandenong Valley Authority

Mr M Robinson 797 1555

Road Construction Authority

Mr B Head 878 0555

State Electricity Commission of Vic.

Mr L Stubbs 615 3425 (B)

Park Hours

Hours Open to vehicles:

Daylight saving:

10.00am - 8.00pm

Non daylight saving:

10.00am - 4.00pm Weekdays

10.00am - 5.00pm Weekdays

Office Hours

Weekdays - 8.00am - 4.00pm

From the Minutes of the November DVMPAC
Meeting

Wantirna Reserve

The MMBW has agreed in principle to the sale or leasing of the sports oval and tennis courts in Wantirna Reserve to the City of Knox for local sporting purposes.

Japanese Garden

DVMP is under consideration as a site for a proposed Japanese garden arising from Victoria's sister state relationship with the Province of Aichi in Japan. A corresponding Australian garden is to be established in Aichi.

Sound Shell

An approach has been made by the Rotary Club of Glen Waverley to sponsor the construction of a "Sound Shell" in the Park.

Energy Information Centre

The Department of Minerals and Energy has submitted a proposal to establish an energy information centre in the Dandenong Valley Metropolitan Park at Nortons Park.

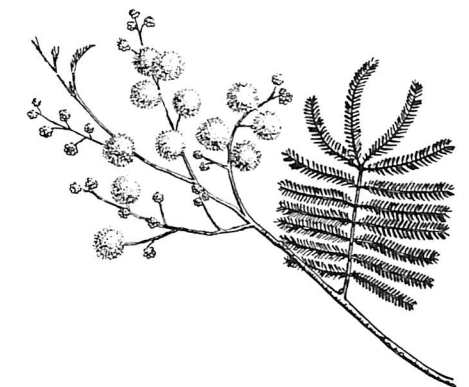
Koomba Wetlands

Work is now complete on the new lake and wetlands in Koomba.

On 15 February the Hon. the Minister for Water Supply, Mr David White, turned on a pump to symbolically declare the lake "open". The wetlands will normally fill from a small storm water drain.



New Lake at Koomba



Dogs in Parks

Under the Metropolitan Park by-laws, dogs are not allowed into the parks, (except in areas set aside for dog training, competition or shows), unless they are on a leash and effectively restrained from causing annoyance to any person or damaging any aspect of the park. In some areas of the parks, reserved for grazing or wildlife conservation, the entry of dogs is expressly prohibited.

A significant number of park visitors come to the parks with their principal object being to exercise their dogs, but unfortunately some do not maintain effective control over their animals. Dog owners must be mindful of the harm their pets can cause to livestock and wildlife, of the possible distress to people who are afraid of dogs, and of the annoyance they can be to people who prefer to be without the company of dogs when they visit a park.

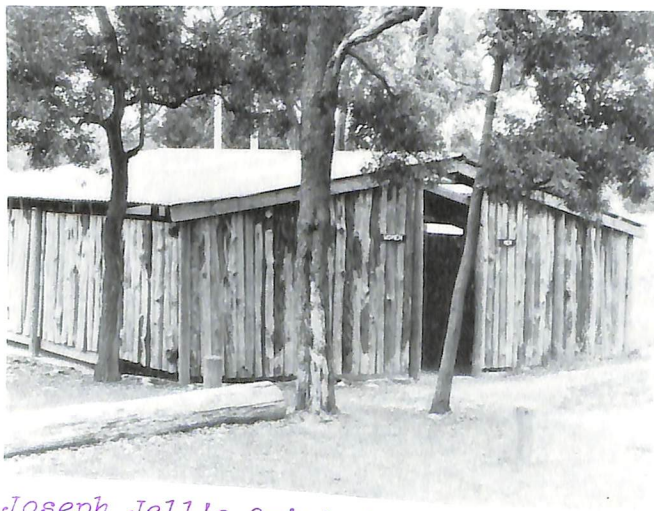
The Board's policy in regard to dogs in parks has recently been reviewed. The verdict was that the metropolitan parks must be kept as safe, pleasant and comfortable as possible for all visitors, and the by-laws requiring dogs to be kept on a leash will be stringently enforced.

Local History

Early Settlers Along the Dandenong Creek

In 1839 Thomas Napier took out a licence over all the Dandenong Creek frontage from near the Burwood Highway to Wellington Road. Napier had come to Port Phillip from Van Diemen's Land in 1837, and for two years pursued his trade as a builder in the new settlement before buying cattle overlanded from Sydney and squatting on the Dandenong Creek. Napier built a hut somewhere within the present Jells Park but after only a year he sold out, and went in search of better pasture.

At about the same time Rev. James Clow settled at the southern extremity of the Park land. He built an eight roomed house on the north side of Wellington Road and for 12 years Clow and his family alternated between there and their Melbourne residence. In 1850 Clow sold his Dandenong Valley property to John Beilby and retired to a smaller property near Queenscliff.



Joseph Jell's Original Cabin?

Alexander Scott, a friend of Clows, took over Thomas Napier's licence in 1840. Scott died a year later and his widow carried on the property in partnership with Mr Reid and the Drew brothers. Mrs Scott and her family initially lived in a hut at the northern end of where Jells Lake is now but in 1843 withdrew to a small leasehold east of the creek, taking the property name of Bushy Park with them.

During the remainder of the 19th Century, portions of the parklands passed through the possession of a variety of people or partnerships; including Neil McLean, John Drummie and Patrick Brennan, Joseph Jell and Joseph Ramsay, Barnaby Reilly, John and Bartholomew Wheeler, Robert Nicholas who called his property Oak Range, Thomas Armstrong, Thomas Norris and Thomas Bennett. Several of these people have left traces of their passing in the form of local place names.



Waverley Mayor, Cr D McIntosh, Mr Alan Patterson, Deputy Manager of Metropolitan Parks, Geoff Edwards, and Ranger-in-Charge, Ray Cromie.

Jells Park-Ferntree Gully Road Entrance

The new twenty-five hectare "South Gate" section of Jells Park was officially opened on Wednesday, 28 November, adding to the already extensive park facilities available.

The Board of Works has been developing the site on Ferntree Gully Road for three years, preparing the grounds, establishing trees and constructing car parks, toilet blocks and trails.

To officially open "South Gate", a ribbon was cut by Dandenong Valley Advisory Committee Chairman and Board of Works Member, Mr Alan Patterson, MBE, JP in a ceremony attended by the Mayor of Waverley, Cr Donald McIntosh, and the other members of the advisory committee.

The new section's close proximity to the Park's wetlands should make it a popular venue for visitors, particularly those interested in observing water birds.

What Has Happened to Jells Park Lake?

Jells Park Lake was drained earlier this summer in preparation for improvement works which could only be carried out on a dry lake bed. Ever since the lake was formed in 1977, the water has been quite murky and the shoreline has never quite attained the attractiveness and charm of the rest of the Park. Some of the soil of the lake bed will be replaced and the banks re-contoured as water quality and landscaping improvement measures. Reeds and grass will be established around the edges of the lake to reduce wave erosion, and paperbarks and tea-trees planted on the drier parts of the banks.

To provide better fish habitat, some deeper holes will be formed in the bed and hollow logs and pipes placed on the lake bottom. When the lake is refilled, blackfish will be introduced to join the eels, redfin, carp and mosquito fish already present.

Dead trees are being placed in the lake to provide safe perches and roosting areas for birds. Better shallows habitats are being created for wading birds by the emplacement of new topsoil.

A small beach area is being created, although the lake is still deemed to be unsuitable for swimming.

The exercise of draining the lake revealed an interesting array of dumped articles including bicycles, shopping trolleys and road signs. In all, four truckloads of rubbish were removed.



Nearly Empty Jells Park Lake



Tori Gate and Cherry Trees

Japanese Cherry Tree Grove

Immediately to the east of the Visitor's Centre at Jells Park stands a replica of a traditional Japanese Torii Gate which marks the location of a grove of about 100 cherry trees still very much in their early formative years. This grove was presented to the State of Victoria by the Prime Minister of Japan, Mr Ohira, to mark his official visit in January 1980. The Victorian Government selected Jells Park as a suitable site for the grove which was officially opened on 24 July 1980 by the Japanese Consul-General and the Premier of Victoria.

The grove should mature after 10 years into a stand of 4 metre high trees; however mortality has been high, particularly last year when about half of the cherry trees died from Early Blight disease. The victims are currently being replaced and the survivors sprayed.

The Gate was initially brown until it was brought to the Park's attention that this was an inappropriate colour. On the advice of Ikebana International, the gate was recently repainted a more traditional colour.



Swamp Safari

Holiday Programme

During the summer school holidays a number of holiday activities for children were conducted in Jells Park and Shepherds Bush. The holiday programme was made up of five separate activities, each under the supervision of Park staff.

- Sunday Ranger Guided Walks - tours of the Park, for all age groups.
- Sunday Funday Activities - scavenger hunts and games for all age groups.
- Junior Rangers - for 9-11 year olds.
- Afternoon Activities - games, nature walks for 5-14 year olds.
- Possum prowls - night spotlight walk for children and their parents.

All the activities have been well attended and it is anticipated that similar programmes will be conducted in forthcoming school holidays.

Rope Trail



RANGER'S COLUMN

By Area Superintendent: Peter Goudy
and Ranger-in-Charge: Ray Cromie

Work Experience

For a short period last year a group of students from the Glendonald School for Deaf Children worked in DVMP as part of their work experience programme. The objective of their sojourn in the Park was to help them in their choice of future careers; hopefully it will assist them in their transition from school to work. The students seem to have enjoyed the experience, and the Park staff were glad to have them.

Escapology

One of the most memorable nights of the summer possum prowling programme occurred when the four holiday programme staff managed to lock themselves and their entire complement of possum prowlers (some forty souls) in the carpenter's shed at Shepherds Bush. They eventually escaped by removing a grill high up on a wall and throwing out Debbie (one of the responsible holiday staff) who opened the door from the outside.

Stray Livestock

A lost ewe and her lamb were found in Koomba Park. They allowed themselves to be captured quietly, without either the prolonged chase of the dumped pig three months ago or the mayhem of the cow in the pipe, before that. They have been returned safely to their owners.

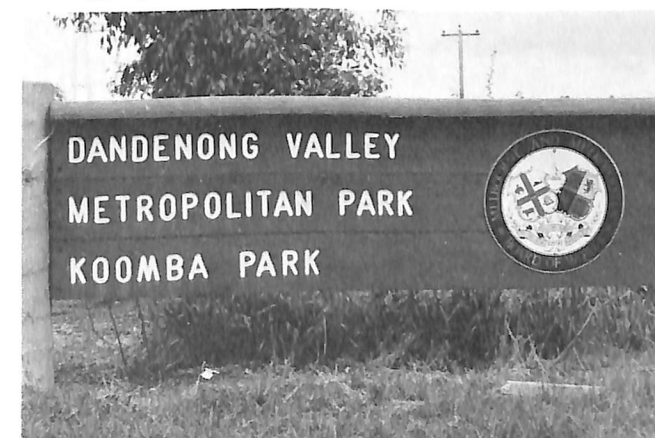
Trail Bikes

Trail bike riders who seem intent on deliberately destroying park grasslands and pathways are currently among the greatest problems at Koomba, and staff and police are making a determined effort to curb these activities. On 28 November a report was received of three trail bike riders in Koomba. Park staff were successful in intercepting the riders and it seemed the solution to the trail bike problem was at hand until the apprehended riders identified themselves as a police special squad on patrol to intercept other trail bike riders in response to a request from the Dandenong Valley Authority!

All very embarrassing, but still it can't be too long before all this police/ranger interception expertise results in the apprehension of the real offenders.

Solar Power

Koomba Park is now solar powered. Well, at least the electric fences are, since the installation of a solar energy pack.



Solar Powered Koomba Park

Bicycles

Some of the Jells Park rangers have tried leaving their vehicles behind and patrolling their beats on bicycles. They find that they interact with the public better and they now appreciate what hard work it is being a park visitor.

Meanwhile, the new rent-a-bike operation is doing a prosperous trade.

Good uses for Jells Park

To give you an idea as to what types of events can be held in a Metropolitan Park, the following is a list of events, gatherings and occasions for which permits have been issued for Jells Park in the month of March.

Date

- 2 - Wedding
- 2 - Hamilton picnic
- 2 - Mirrabooka Beefsteak and Burgundy Club picnic
- 2 - Hurles picnic
- 3 - Greenslopes primary school barbecue
- 3 - Mono pumps barbecue
- 3 - Smith family picnic
- 3 - Cartwright family picnic
- 3 - BTSODA picnic
- 3 - Mercedes-Benz Social Club picnic
- 9 - Wedding
- 10 - Youth Club reunion
- 10 - 2/6 Cavalry Comm. Regiment Association barbecue
- 10 - Mullum Valley Lodge barbecue
- 11 - Orienteering
- 11 - New Settlers Baptist Association barbecue
- 16 - Do-Care picnic
- 16 - Devereaux picnic
- 17 - Ceylonese Welfare Association picnic
- 17 - Monash House Social Club picnic
- 17 - Andrews picnic
- 17 - Gardner Uniting Church barbecue
- 17 - PAFS No 27 barbecue
- 17 - Survey Para-Quad Association picnic
- 20 - City of Waverley picnic
- 23 - Barriburn Pre-school barbecue
- 23 - Cadets and Calvinets barbecue
- 23 - Wedding
- 23 - Westpac Wine Club barbecue
- 24 - Aust. Guild of Professional Cooks barbecue
- 24 - Mashiter reunion
- 24 - Fiske - Wallace - Britter picnic
- 24 - Oakleigh Hotel barbecue
- 24 - Northvale Little Athletics
- 24 - Footscray East-West Club barbecue
- 30 - Wedding
- 31 - Spastic Society Superwalk
- 31 - Waverley schools 150th celebrations



New Metropolitan Park

On 21 January the Board of Works assumed responsibility for the management of Werribee Park, which becomes the sixth metropolitan park of Melbourne. This event comes only a couple of months after the Waterways and Parks Division became responsible for the Board's land in the lower Maribyrnong Valley which will now be developed as a linear park.

New Visitors Services Officer

Dorothy Evans is the first of the Visitors Services officers to take up her post. She is stationed at Jells Park and her main job will be to liaise with the various user groups, encouraging activities in the Park.

Dot was previously seconded to Healesville Sanctuary by the Education Department as a teacher. She still lives in Healesville with husband, four daughters and numerous animals and lists her recreations as reading, music and growing vegies.

So far she has been busy meeting people both at DVMP and at head office; becoming familiar with the different aspects of the Park; writing materials for school groups and trying to read all the surveys, conferences, plans and files that are relevant. She is looking forward to being involved in displays and in helping to plan the undeveloped areas.



Wild Oats *Avena fatua*
- a common annual weed around Melbourne on disturbed ground.