



Edition 4: February 2016

dereelspokes@gmail.com

<http://dereelspokes.com>

 Dereel Spokes

 @dereelspokes

DCHI News

Dereel Community Hub Incorporated

Dereel Hub Activities

Time Change

We've noticed that the Dereel Hub Café gets busy just before we're due to close at 2pm, so we've changed the opening time. The Hub Café will now run each **Saturday from 2pm to 4pm**

The later time slot offers us an opportunity to run activities for like-minded people. We hope there is something here to interest you. If not, contact us to discuss other options.

There is no requirement to be a member of the Dereel Community Hub to attend these sessions.

13th February: Photography

Join Paul Squire, professional photographer and new Dereel resident, for some photographic fun.

Whether you are just learning how to use a camera or you are a skilled photographer, come along to discuss the possibility of meeting regularly.

Paul aims to set up a safe environment for people to learn new skills, share interests and techniques, participate in regular photo challenges and go on excursions to locations where these skills can be practiced.

20th February: Dereel Greenthumbs

Come along to share knowledge, stories, plants,



produce and anything else related to gardening. On the *Dereel Greenthumbs* afternoons, we will discuss things like:

- What is wrong with my soil?
- Why won't things grow?
- What does grow well in Dereel?
- How can I grow this plant?
- I water and water and my soil is still dry. Why?
- How can I improve my soil?
- Is this a weed?

Do you have questions to add to the list? Maybe you want to swap seeds, plants or produce. This is the day for you! We hope to develop this into a monthly meeting.

...continued on page 4

Dereel People

Julie Lee



By Michel Fielding

1. How long have you lived in the area?

About 5 years; I was ready for a tree change. I lived in Geelong and my husband in Ballarat, so Dereel seemed part way between the two.

2. What's great about living here?

I love the peace and quiet, the trees, wildlife and especially the orchids. And yet it is still accessible to everything.

3. What do you feel passionate about?

Animal welfare, all creatures deserve respect. The environment, it is where we live.

4. What do you find joy in doing?

In sharing; whether it's Christmas gifts or sharing acquired knowledge, giving is a wonderful experience. I get a lot of enjoyment from caring for animals. I love studying and learning, and am very happy to finally have the opportunity to go to University and look forward to graduating with a Masters in Planning.

5. What is your current pet project?

Working on building my garden.

6. Which community groups are you involved in and why?

I have always done volunteer work. If you want to see something happen you have to get on and do it.

Dereel Community Hub - I had been involved in community planning previously but left because of study commitments. I am on sabbatical so can get back into it.

Oscar's Law - taking action against puppy farms.

Animals Australia -working towards animal welfare reform.

Victoria Bushfire Working Group - bushfire planning, design and management. Where we have specialist

knowledge, it's our responsibility to share it.

7. Tell us about your best community experience.

I started and was the inaugural area co-coordinator for K60 Neighbourhood Watch, covering Meredith to Winchelsea and across to Cressy. What inspired me was a lovely older lady I knew, who was so scared of being burgled that she had bars on her window and lived in fear. By improving communication and greater awareness of crime in the area, people started feeling safe.

8. How could you see more of this happening in Dereel?

Change can only happen if people are open to it. We need to recognise the value of acting for community benefit and not limit ourselves to personal agendas.

9. Describe a future vision of Dereel that you would like to see.

I would like to see public space on the highway. Have a real sense of township centred around council owned public space, e.g. for walks, BBQs etc, with a commercial centre to the side —a typical country town centre. This would help build a real sense of ownership and engagement in the community, with places to meet and do things together.

10. What would we do as a first step to realise that dream?

The key step is working with strategic planning of the Golden Plains Shire to work towards getting zoning changes underway to make this possible. This would be done as part of the community planning activity. I feel my knowledge and experience working in Town Planning gives me a depth of understanding of these issues. The birth of Town Planning originated with Ebenezer Howard in the 1890's where the town was planned around the public open space (Village Green) which was the centre of the community. In Dereel there is no real centre and all parts are fairly fragmented. We need a 'sense of town' where we can share and display our 'town'.

Dereel Planning Update.

By Julie Lee

Dereel Swamp Survey

As part of the Dereel Community Planning there will be investigations undertaken to increase the knowledge of the Dereel Swamp. The Dereel Swamp is ecologically and geologically significant and has been home to the rare Browns Toadlet (*Pseudophryne bibroni*).

An information session on the toadlet, including its call, will be conducted on **Saturday 2nd of April** at the Dereel Community centre **from 1pm-2pm**. This will be followed by two (2) sessions taping frog calls at the swamp:

- Wednesdays 6th April
- Wednesday 13th April

The sessions will run from 8pm until 9.30pm. Meet at the Dereel Community Centre. You will need to bring a mobile phone to tape calls.

We hope to confirm that the Browns Toadlet is in the Dereel Swamp.

This work will be good for any secondary school students that are interested in conservation and ecology to get practical experience undertaking fauna surveys. The surveys will be conducted by a qualified ecologist. There is no cost for attendance.

For more information about the Browns Toadlet: <http://frogs.org.au/frogs/species/Pseudophryne/bibroni/>

Dereel Walking Track

I have been in discussion with the Golden Plains Shire and we have reviewed the current stage of the walking track. Sealing the path would cost over \$200,000. This proposal is too large as the Golden Plains Shire Council budget for paths per year is \$180,000.

However, we are making some progress. The walking track will be upgraded and most problems can be mitigated. The track has recently been cleared of vegetation and sprayed.

Some areas of the track have weathered or are rutted where there is a driveway and at one point the road drains onto the track. The Golden Plains Shire Council will install a pipe where the road drains onto the track to stop storm water from depositing debris and removing the stones. The work is planned to commence in winter as the surface will consolidate better in wet weather.

The points where the path is missing due to the driveway cannot be repaired as any new stones will just wash away. The path will be filled with rock as required and rolled by Council. We hope to use the seed funding that is already available via the Council and it is anticipated that Council may be able to put in a small amount as well.

Trailblazer Waling Groups

Dereel Spokes received the 2016 Trailblazer Walks schedule from Golden Plains Shire's Jacinta Walsh.

The first walk is on **Thursday 3rd March** in Ballarat's Victoria Park. A bus will pick up interested walkers from the Dereel Community Centre, but bookings are essential. Contact Jacinta on:

Landline: 5321 1500,

Mobile: 0458 384 080 or

Email: jacinta.walsh@gplains.vic.gov.au.

Other scheduled walks include Smythesdale, Lismore, Corindhap and along the Barwon River in Geelong. Find the full Trailblazer Walks schedule: on the *Dereel Spokes* website or contact Jacinta.

Trailblazer Walks occur on the first Thursday of the month. If you wish to walk with other keen walkers, more frequently, the Dereel Walking Group meets every Tuesday at 8:30 am outside the Dereel Community Centre. Everyone is welcome to come along.



Trailblazer Walks

Dereel Hub Activities

...continued from page 1

27th February: Books and Writing

The growing size of the book collection in the Dereel Community Centre indicates that there are a few readers amongst us, and perhaps some writers as well. If you're interested in talking about books and writing with others, we would love to see you at the Hub.

Possible activities include journaling, fiction writing, poetry reading, book of the month and more.

All of the Dereel Hub activities begin at 2pm unless otherwise stated.

Autumn Dates

19th March: **Coffee 101**

2nd April: **Browns Toadlet information session**

See page 3 for more details on the Browns Toadlet information session.

Community News

In 2016 *Dereel Spokes* aims to develop regular news columns, each with a different focus on community.

If you have ideas or would like to contribute to the development of *Dereel Spokes*, please contact us:

Email: dereelspokes@gmail.com

Submissions which meet our guidelines will be published online as they are received, and a round-up of the relevant stories reproduced in print.

Acknowledgements

The Dereel Community Hub Incorporated would like to thank CentaCare for paying our first year Public Liability Insurance and also for covering the cost of printing the Dereel Spokes newsletter for our first year.

Thanks also to Mitchel Fielding and Julie Lee for supplying the articles in the February edition of Dereel Spokes.

Free Subscription

We want to be responsible with paper, and with our financial resources. So the first few printed edition will go to every household in Dereel to let you know we exist, and to ask for your support. In the future, the printed version will only be delivered to residents who request it.

If you would like to continue getting a printed copy of the newsletter in your letterbox, please let us know by filling in this form. It won't cost you anything and we can be sure we are only delivering it to the people who want to read it.

Yes, I would like to continue receiving the print edition of *Dereel Spokes*.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please return this form to:

2857 Colac-Ballararat Road, Dereel

Submission Guidelines

Dereel Spokes is the communication arm of the newly formed Dereel Community Hub Inc. Along with news of events, we would like to publish items of interest to the Dereel community. You don't need to be a member of the Dereel Community Hub to submit an item to our newsletter.

We accept photographs and articles related to community announcements, local events, light news items, local flora and fauna, local community groups, schools, sporting clubs, agricultural organisations and any other items in the spirit of bringing the community together.

You must own copyright for any photograph you submit. Please include signed permission to publish if your photo includes a person.

Note: We will not publish jokes, political comments or advertising. We reserve the right not to publish items we consider to be offensive to the community.

Lisa Hunter
Editor
Dereel Spokes.
dereelspokes@gmail.com