
Friends of the Prom activities - 24th February 2024

Work activity

We have two activities planned for Saturday 24th February 2024 – our main activity is a beach clean-up, and we also need a few people to build more tree guards. Official Clean-up Australia Day is on Sunday 2nd March.

The beach clean-up is our annual contribution to Clean-up Australia Day. We will form a number of groups to patrol Prom beaches, picking up any rubbish we find and making sure not to disturb nesting shore birds like the Hooded Plover.

After the beach clean, groups will return to either Tidal River nursery or the Stockyards (whichever is closest) to weigh, sort and record the rubbish collected. The data recorded will be sent to the Tangaroa Blue Foundation for inclusion in the Australian Marine Debris Initiative database which will help the Foundation build a clearer picture of how debris reaches our beaches. We published the data from the 2023 beach clean-up in our March newsletter and will list this year's results in our next newsletter for comparison.

We also need a few volunteers who are prepared to forgo the pleasures of beachcombing to refurbish tree-guards at the Yanakie works yard. There are about 20 pre-formed steel mesh split cylinders that came from Snake Island and were delivered to Yanakie in a bundle. Our work involves separating the cylinders (they are larger and heavier than the steel mesh tree guards that we are used to), joining up the sides with tie-wire, and wrapping wire mesh around the base. We need 4 volunteers for this task.

A Parks Victoria ranger will supervise these activities.

Arrangements

Meet: As we are likely visiting some northern Prom beaches, everyone will meet at the Stockyards campsite at 8:30am to form teams and be briefed on safety. We then travel out to the various locations from there. The Stockyard campsite is immediately to the right of the entrance gate as you enter the park.

Bring: BYO lunch and all drinks for the day. Take plenty of water if it is hot. A pair of binoculars for spotting shore birds is useful (one pair per group is enough).

Wear: Gloves and eye protection (sunglasses, glasses or safety glasses) and clothes suitable for changeable Prom weather - at this time of year, long sleeves and sun protection are recommended. Strong footwear suitable for extended walking is required.

Stay: Free camping at the Stockyards Camp on Friday and Saturday nights is available for working-bee volunteers. You would need to supply all your own cooking equipment and food. The fire-place is not available for use because of summer fire restrictions.

Transport: We encourage car-pooling at the Stockyards for the drive to the different beaches.

Working with Children Check: Parks Victoria requires all its adult volunteers to have a valid WWCC, unless this is your first time volunteering with Friends of the Prom. Please register your WWCC card details in your profile details on ParkConnect.

Register: Please register for these activities on ParkConnect (Parks Victoria's online volunteering portal) - they are listed as separate activities. We are placing an attendance limit of 35 on the beach clean and 4 for the tree guard work, so don't miss out by delaying your registration. *The instructions for registering are given below. Contact Peter McDowell on pdmcdowell101@gmail.com if you need help registering.

We all have a duty of care to look after each other – so if you have any health condition which may require sudden first aid, please tell a friend who is present, or one of the Committee members.

Other activities for those staying over on Saturday night

After Saturday's work activities, the evening is given over to relaxation back at Stockyard camp. We start with pre dinner drinks (BYO) and enjoy the evening together under the stars or in the shelter.

Sunday is regarded as free time and your reward for the time you have donated to the Prom. Sunday is a great opportunity to get to all those places that you have seen on the map but have never made the time to visit.

We could organise a walk(s) on Sunday. Anyone interested should assemble at the Stockyards on Sunday morning at 9:30am.

Enquiries to:

Keith McDougall

Secretary, Friends of the Prom

Email: info@friendsoftheprom.org.au

***Registering for an activity on ParkConnect**

A. For first timers -

1. Get into ParkConnect via your browser.
2. Register as a volunteer with Parks Victoria and provide your contact details and emergency contact.
3. Once you have registered, click <Search activities and Groups> find the group "Friends of the Prom Inc" and join (this is not the same as being a financial member).

You only do steps 2 and 3 once.

B. If you have completed steps 2 and 3 -

4. Log into ParkConnect via your browser
5. Click <My Activities and Groups>. The name <Friends of the Prom> will appear if you have previously registered as a volunteer on ParkConnect and "joined" Friends of the Prom.
6. Click <Friends of the Prom> and the Friends of the Prom page will load.
7. Click on the activity you want to join.
8. Click <Join activity>.
9. You're in.