

Dr Susan Hodson,

15 Feb 09

To those involved in developing the management plan for public parks,

I would like to comment on two topics:

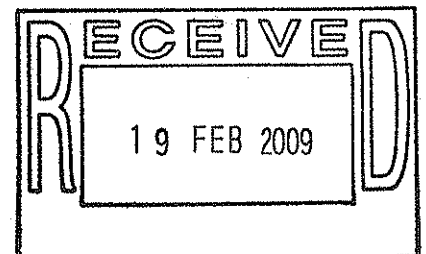
1. Poor condition of Yarra Park- due to drought/weather PLUS car parking on grassed areas.
2. Reminder of need for open areas in Disaster planning.

Regarding Yarra Park.

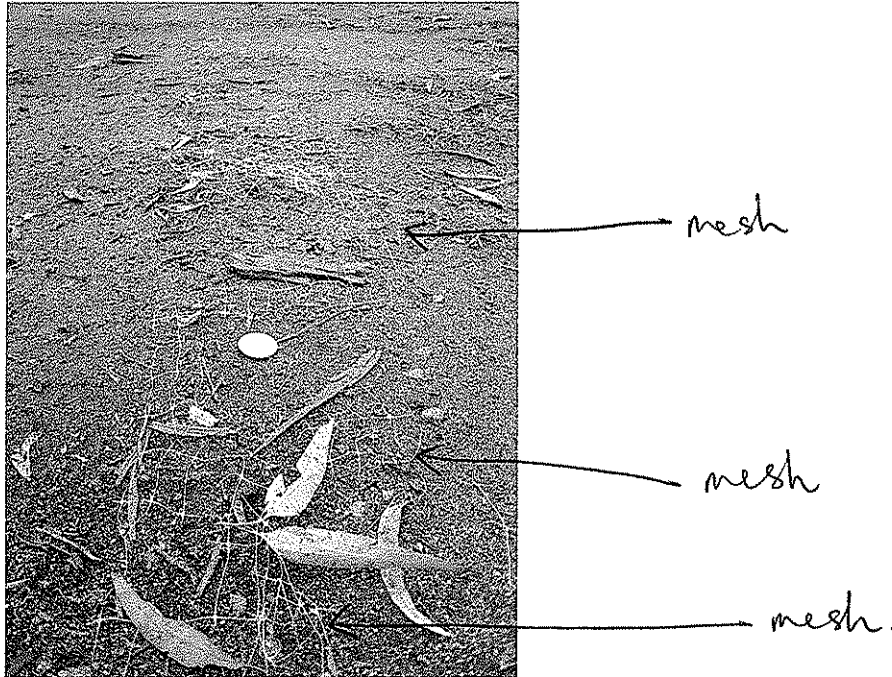
I make these comments as a new (12 months) resident in East Melbourne, as a regular dog walker, and also based on my professional insights as a Medical Practitioner.

Informal groups using Yarra Park demonstrated all the HEALTH PROMOTION goals which state and federal governments are trying to achieve! (Well done, Melbourne City Council.) People were participating in (affordable, accessible) regular activity, in a supportive, inclusive, cross-age setting – all the criteria for promotion of physical and mental well-being which the Health Promotion gurus try to replicate

However some areas of Yarra Park, east of the MCG, have serious deficiencies. There are degraded areas (no grass cover), and **mesh which was once under turf** has been exposed. This mesh is a serious '**falls risk**' as it is difficult to see (especially if an owner is also watching a dog).



See photos.



This is in addition to the **'falls risk'** inherent in the gravelly (slippery), uneven nature of the surface in its current state.

Regarding Disaster planning:

It is timely with Victoria's current fires to remember that in a Disaster open spaces are required as Evacuation areas, and for the location of Emergency services. Obviously the open area that is required depends on the size of the population involved.

While I hope nothing tragic ever occurs, either a natural disaster or terrorist attack at the MCG could potentially involve a very large numbers of people. Large open spaces outside the MCG would be essential.

Signed,

\_\_\_\_\_

Susan Hodson