

# Friends Of Willow Park Inc.



Educating and involving the community in protecting, preserving and valuing parklands

## NEWSLETTER – March 2007

### *Council says – No Pool in Willow Park!*

Council released its options for the Aquatic and Leisure Centre to a large crowd at the Wodonga Civic Centre on 2 February 2007. Members of *Friends of Willow Park* were delighted and relieved that Willow Park was not on the list. *Friends of Willow Park* had a celebratory BBQ for members in Willow Park a couple of days after the decision. Between 40 to 50 people gathered during the evening to celebrate the decision.

*Friends of Willow Park* formally congratulated Council on its courage and leadership in undertaking the consultation process. More than 400 submissions were received by Council. It became clear that the majority of people want to protect Willow Park now and into the future. Green open space, and Willow Park in particular, are special places to the people of Wodonga. These should be protected for future generations.

Council will announce its final decision on the location and makeup of our Aquatic and Leisure Centre at their meeting on 16 April at 6 pm in the Council Chambers.

### *Funding application*

*Friends of Willow Park* is currently applying for funds to purchase a water testing kit. If successful, this will provide us with our own equipment for Waterwatch monitoring. For further information on Waterwatch read the article on the next page.

### *Members Meeting Come- Help shape the future*

With the issue of the pool in Willow Park resolved, there is a need to focus on the long-term protection, preservation, and enjoyment of our beautiful park.

Members and friends are invited to an important meeting and social gathering to discuss:

- the future of the park; and
- ideas about activities for Friends of Willow Park

Come share your thoughts and ideas.

**When?** Tuesday 17 April, 2007

**What time?** 7.30 p.m.

**Where?** Belvoir School, 4 Bowman Court, Wodonga

**RSVP:** Contact Pauline or Steve on 6056 6275 by Monday 16 April

### *Waterwatching is well underway!*

Water and river systems are important social and economic assets. Unfortunately, many of our river systems have become degraded (e.g. increasing salinity, sediments, nutrients and algal blooms). Both rural and urban communities have a role to play in reducing their impact on our river systems and to make sure future generations continue to enjoy the many values our rivers and wetlands currently provide.

Waterwatch is about local communities being actively involved in monitoring local water bodies and taking on-ground action to preserve our water systems.

**Patrons:** Professor David Mitchell, Professor Allan Curtis, Dr Juliet Bird

**Postal Address:** c/- P.O. Box 1083, Wodonga, 3689

**Website:** [www.vicnet.net.au/~fowpwod](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~fowpwod)

**Phone:** Julie: (02)6056 1787, Gerard: (02) 6056 1600, Brydie: (02) 6059 5498, Steve: (02) 6056 6275, Kim: (02) 6024 3023, Ali (02) 6056 1938

*Friends of Willow Park* is monitoring two bodies of water: the storm water treatment wetland in Willow Park near Pearce St; and House Creek near the wetland.

Monitoring will assist *Friends of Willow Park*, the City of Wodonga and Waterwatch Victoria to understand:

- river health;
- how these water bodies function;
- water sustainability and management issues;
- the impact of the remediation wetland; and
- any emerging issues or trends in water quality.

Jessica Aiken from Waterwatch provided *Friends of Willow Park* with excellent training during December and February and we are now registered to sample and analyse the water.



Jessica Aiken from Waterwatch (second left) assists (from left to right) Pauline Anderson, Stephen Anderson and Geoff Emmanuel to analyse a water sample using a water quality test kit

**Waterwatch is a lot of fun and a great team or family activity.**

**Come join us! Contact Alison on 5056 1938.**



Jessica Aiken (right) from Waterwatch assists (from left to right) Geoff Emmanuel, Gerard Moore, Pauline Anderson and Stephen Anderson (with wet feet!) to sample water in the wetland.

## *Clean up Australia Day*

On Sunday the 5th of February, *Friends of Willow Park* participated in the “Clean Up Australia” effort. A small but energetic group of members spent the morning cleaning up Willow Park, under the direction of Clean Up Coordinator David Pinter, Wodonga Council's Waste Manager.

Many bags of rubbish were removed from the creek area, particularly close to Pearce Street and the pedestrian bridge. Pauline Anderson had the honour of extracting the biggest items, including a supermarket trolley and a bike. Most of the rubbish consisted of plastic bags, bottles, cans and chip packets, but generally, the amount of rubbish in the park seemed to be relatively low, compared with some other locations and former times. People do seem to be getting the message.

The organisers provided an excellent BBQ in Willow Park for all Wodonga participants; a welcome end to the morning.

David Pinter thanked *Friends of Willow Park* and other participants for their involvement in “Clean Up Australia Day”

## *Our Patrons*

*Friends of Willow Park* is pleased to introduce our three eminent patrons – Professor David Mitchell, Professor Allan Curtis, and Dr. Juliet Bird.

### **Professor David Mitchell:**

- Adjunct Professor, Charles Sturt University (CSU)
- Member of Institute of Land, Water and Society
- Internationally respected wetland ecologist
- Interests
  - wetland ecology
  - the design of the buildings and waste water systems on Thurgoona CSU campus
  - his community
- Prior to joining CSU David directed major research establishments with the CSIRO Centre for Irrigation and Freshwater Research in Griffith and the Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre in Albury-Wodonga

**Professor Allan Curtis:**

- Professor, Integrated Environmental Management, CSU
- Director, Institute for Land, Water and Society
- International reputation for research examining the social dimensions of catchment management
- Interests
  - adaptive management
  - triple bottom line reporting
  - preparing socio-economic profiles of catchment communities
  - assessments of the socio-economic impact of changes in land use
- Long-time resident of Wodonga
- Prior to re-joining CSU Allan was leader of the Social Sciences Program in the Bureau of Rural Sciences 2002 - 2004

**Dr Juliet Bird:**

- Consultant, Geostudies Pty Ltd
- Chair, Landscape Committee of the National Trust of Australia (Victoria)
- Member, Landscape Advisory Committee for Heritage Victoria
- Interests
  - water resource management
  - greenhouse gas management
  - sustainable cities – preservation of bushland, significant heritage and urban green zones
- Prior to joining Geostudies Juliet led the Environmental Science program at Melbourne State College before becoming a lecturer in the Geography Department of Melbourne University. Juliet then worked as a consultant to Melbourne University Private running short training and development courses in Greenhouse Gas Emissions Management for international students, funded by the International Greenhouse Partnerships Office.

***Parks and Community Seminar***

*Monday 16 April 2007*

*Sundowner Hovell Tree, Corner Hume Highway and Hovell St, Albury NSW*

In the last 30 years, in the face of broad-scale threats such as acid rain, global warming and land and water degradation, protected area parks have moved from environmental saviours to environmental victims. In the same period urban and metropolitan parks have moved from pleasant retreats to cornerstones of community health and well-being.

Clearly the fate of parks is determined not simply by the quality of their internal management, but by the quality of their connection to the wider community.

What are the key opportunities and impediments to improving this connection from physical, cultural and managerial perspectives?

Three world renowned speakers will address this question. Following their presentations, seminar participants will have the opportunity to engage the speakers in a facilitated discussion.

If you would like to attend RSVP to [jtalbot@parks.vic.gov.au](mailto:jtalbot@parks.vic.gov.au) by 9 April 2007.

***Friends of Willow Park Website***

Our website is launched! Visit us at:  
[www.vicnet.net.au/~fowpwod](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~fowpwod)

***Contributing to our newsletter***

If you have an item of interest for inclusion in our newsletter, please contact Kim: 6024 3023

# FRIENDS OF WILLOW PARK

## Membership Form

Friends



Of  
Willow Park

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES AND FEES:

- \$10 concession, students, individuals, concession household
- \$20 households

Note: the membership fee can be waived in situations of hardship

I wish to join Friends of Willow Park. I agree to be bound by the rules of the Association and to support the group's objectives (attached)

Membership category: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment: (circle) Cash/Cheque  
Cheques payable to: Friends of Willow park Inc.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

### Participating in Friends of Willow Park

*Friends of Willow Park* is an active group and we encourage you to get involved. Please indicate how you would like to participate (you can tick as many of these as you want).

- Helping with the campaigns to save Willow Park from undue development
- Being part of the Committee of Management
- Helping with the newsletter
- Walks, talks, tours, socials
- Hands-on environment projects
- Water quality testing
- Information stalls and publications
- Interest Groups

Send your completed form to:  
Friends of Willow Park Inc.  
c/- P.O. Box 1083, Wodonga, 3689  
Wodonga, 3689

### OUR OBJECTIVES

- (a) To promote the protection and preservation of Willow Park as public open space parkland;
- (b) To promote the protection and preservation of the social, economic and environmental value of Willow Park including the flora, fauna and features (scenic, archaeological, geological, historic or scientific);
- (c) To educate and inform the community about the role and value of Willow Park; and
- (d) To foster community involvement in, and enjoyment of, Willow Park in accordance with the above objectives.