

Friends Of Willow Park Inc.



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

NEWSLETTER — January 2008

Our End-Of-Year Party

On Tuesday 18 December *Friends of Willow Park* held our second End-Of-Year Party to celebrate our many achievements in 2007 and talk about our plans for 2008. A lovely evening was had by all in the beautiful surroundings of Willow Park.

We hope to see you at our upcoming events including our Works and Waterwatch program and National Tree Day activities. Keep watching our newsletter for notices of upcoming events and activities.



Celebrations after our 2007 National Tree Day

Master Plan for Willow Park - Update

We noted in our last newsletter that *Friends of Willow Park* presented to Council a proposal for a community-led Master Plan process for Willow Park that would see members of the community working

alongside Council to develop a joint vision and priorities for Willow Park.

Julie Hind recently met with Peter Marshall, Rodney Wangman and John Mahony from City of Wodonga and the response from Council to our proposal was very positive. We will begin working on this project in the next few weeks and we will keep you informed of progress!

February's Information Evening Guest Speaker – Stuart Robertson

Stuart Robertson is a Weed Alert Contact Officer with Department of Primary Industries and has been involved with *Friends of Willow Park* for some time. Stuart trained us to identify weeds and contributes regular articles to our newsletter.

We hope to see you all at our first information evening for 2008 when Stuart talks about the issue of weeds that we should all be concerned with and brings his wonderful display along (see picture page 2).

When? Tuesday 19 February 2008

What time? 7.30 p.m.

Where? Belvoir School, 4 Bowman Court, Wodonga

Further information: Contact Alison on 6056 1938

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

Phone: Julie: (02)6056 1787, Ali (02) 6056 1938

Weed Alert – Cross-border approach to tackling weeds

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) recently joined forces with its NSW counterparts by holding a joint weed display at the Henty Machinery Field Days. Having DPI representation at cross-border events like this is important because weeds don't respect state boundaries and many new weeds may enter Victoria from our northern neighbours.



DPI's Targeted Weed Alert Species on Display at the Henty Field Days

Visitors to Henty had the chance to ask questions, get information and see live specimens of high risk weeds for Victoria. Displaying live plants for people to see and touch makes it much more likely that people will recognise these new weed threats in the field or even in their own backyards. Additionally, having cooperation with NSW weed managers means they too can brush up on the new and emerging weed threats for Victoria.

Next Waterwatch:

Sunday 25 January
4.30 pm

Tea before Waterwatch at 4 pm
Please bring a small plate to share

Meet near the BBQ area in Willow Park

Come along for a minute or an hour
Phone Geoff 0427 954 050
or Ali 0409 032 490

NO WORKS OVER SUMMER

Strategies for Works on Waterways – Why Do it Like That?

In our last newsletter we considered the challenges of planning works on waterways to rehabilitate our rivers and streams. In this article we'd like to consider the challenges for managers in selecting strategies to do these works – more about why do it like that?

Selecting an appropriate strategy for works on waterways depends on a number of key questions:

- What is the asset or threat (i.e. the thing worth protecting or the problem)?
- What options are available to treat the asset or threat?
- Which of these treatment options will be most efficient and effective?
- What are the social, economic and environmental risks associated with each treatment option?
- What are the social, economic and environmental risks of doing nothing?

It is important to think about one issue at a time when you have a lengthy list of assets that need protecting and threats that need minimising. However, it is also important to think about the impacts of works on other sections of the waterway.

As a simple example of strategy selection, consider that you have a section of stream with an asset of good remnant vegetation that will need protection. A common treatment option for this kind of asset is to fence the stream. However, you may have anglers wanting to access the stream and it is important from the social, economic and environmental aspects of works on waterways that fishing is allowed in that section of the stream. An alternative option for protection of this section of the stream is to install gates in the fence and jetties for the anglers that will allow both protection of the remnant vegetation and access for anglers. In effect, with the second option you are controlling the impacts to the remnant vegetation and minimizing the social and economic risks of the works. In the next newsletter we'll consider other situations requiring works on waterways and strategies for achieving desired outcomes.

More from Professor David Mitchell

In our last newsletter we mentioned we would follow up with more information from David on his reasons for developing his five “rules” for management of our water resources.

David notes that it is particularly important to realise that there are critically important sub-cycles within the overall water cycle. These sub-cycles have profound effects on “microclimates” amongst vegetation and between vegetation and soils, and on “mesoclimates” in the spaces occupied by living organisms on the surface of the Earth. For example, the process of *evapotranspiration* from vegetation increases the humidity and lowers the temperature of the air around the plants. Evapotranspiration occurs when small specialised structures in the leaves of the plants, known as stomata, open in daylight so that carbon dioxide can enter the plant. Carbon dioxide is an essential ingredient of carbohydrates, which are formed in the process of *photosynthesis*, in which energy from the sun is incorporated to provide an essential ingredient for the life of the plants and, in turn, those organisms that feed on them. Humidity of the air around the plants is increased by the water vapour escaping from the plants through the open stomata and the air is cooled at the same time by the latent heat of evaporation being utilised to change water from a liquid in the plant to its gaseous equivalent, water vapour, in the air outside the plant. In this respect the plants are behaving like evaporative air coolers.

The removal of large areas of complex native vegetation and their replacement by simple agriculturally based crops and pastures containing plants that evolved in naturally moist areas have decreased the cooling effects of native vegetation and increased the loss of water by evapotranspiration. Our natural (and worthy) desire to increase runoff of water into dams and reservoirs has increased the movement of water and, with it, salt over and through the landscape. The unreliability of rainfall in Australia provide the rationale and impetus for these strategies, without sufficient understanding of the consequent effect on drying and heating large areas of the landscape that are not required, or suitable, for productive agriculture.

Australians must aim for a better balance in the management of water and other natural resources and should place more emphasis on using the natural processes in the landscape which have enabled its survival over previous centuries. Better understanding of these processes, now being demonstrated through Natural Resource Management strategies and the Landcare movement, have the potential to restore a better balance to the long-term management of our country.

Friends of Willow Park thank David for this important contribution to our newsletter and we look forward to another fascinating presentation from David later in 2008.

Friends of Willow Park T-shirt Transfer

Friends of Willow Park has produced a T-shirt transfer that can be purchased for \$7.50 and placed on a shirt purchased from T-Shirt World, 429 Townsend St, Albury at no cost. You can also take your own shirt into T-shirt World and they will put the transfer on for a cost of \$2.00. Transfers are available from Stephen Anderson (6056 6275 or paulsando12@yahoo.com.au).

Further information: Contact Stephen on 6056 6275 or Alison on 6056 1938



Contributing to our newsletter

If you have an item of interest for inclusion in our newsletter, please contact Laurie Fitzsimons: 60 245974 or email ldfitz@bigpond.net.au

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FRIENDS OF WILLOW PARK

Membership Form

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES AND FEES (Note: the membership fee can be waived in situations of hardship):

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

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 (below).

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
- Fundraising

Send your completed form to:

Friends of Willow Park Inc.
c/- P.O. Box 1083, 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.

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