

# Friends Of Willow Park Inc.



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

## NEWSLETTER — July 2008

*National Tree Day is here again!*

**Sunday 27 July**  
**10.30 Registration**  
**11.00 Planting**

**1.00 BBQ and Face Painting**

*Please bring drinking water, spade and hammer*

**Meet** near the BBQ area in Willow Park

Come along for a minute or an hour  
**Phone** Ali 6056 1938 or 0409 032 490

### *Friends of Willow Park Welcomes our Coordinator – Lachlan Slade*

We noted in our last newsletter that *Friends of Willow Park* received a "Second Generation Landcare Grant" allowing us to engage a part time Coordinator for a fixed term period. We were very fortunate to have Lachlan Slade accept this position.

Lachie grew up in Mooroopna in the Goulburn Valley, and went to Notre Dame College in Shepparton where he won the Catherine McAuley & Marcellin Champagnat award for community contribution. After completing high school he was appointed Chair of the Mooroopna Tree of Youth, a community group organising activities and services for the youth of the area.

Lachie moved to Wodonga in 2006 to commence the Bachelor of Social Work/Bachelor of Human Services course at La Trobe University. In 2007 he was the Youth Activities Officer at Wodonga TAFE organising programs and activities for high school children at TAFE.

This year is Lachie's 3rd year of the 4 year course and his accomplishments so far this year include co-founding of AWAIRH (Albury Wodonga Allies In Rural Health, which is the Rural Health Club for La Trobe University). Lachie is also President of the Wodonga Student Association, which services both the University and TAFE. This role includes liaising with the University and TAFE staff and students, liaising with relevant Government departments, other student unions, clubs and associations, and helping organise events.

Lachie's role with *Friends of Willow Park* is primarily to increase membership and involvement in group activities, seek appropriate grants and sponsorship and assist with our events. Lachie hopes that his roles within the University will assist in his roles with *Friends of Willow Park* and vice-versa. We agree!

We're sure you'll agree too – Lachie is a great addition to *Friends of Willow Park* and we hope you meet him soon. Just so you recognise him, Lachie is pictured below left.



Our Coordinator, Lachie (left), working hard at Arbor Week

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

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

**Website:** [www.friendsofwillowpark.org.au](http://www.friendsofwillowpark.org.au)

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

## *Arbor Week Day Success*

In our last newsletter we mentioned we had received a \$1500 grant from the Natural Resource Conservation League to work with Wodonga South Primary School and Wodonga Senior Secondary College to plant trees and make and place nest boxes for Arbor Week. We were very fortunate to have Belvoir Special School also involved on the day.

Students reported having a wonderful time building nest boxes, placing them in Willow Park and planting shrubs to provide additional habitat and food for the birds and animals we expect to take up residence in the nest boxes. We're happy to say that a wonderful and satisfying day was had by all.



Planting and placing nest boxes in Willow Park for Arbor Week

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all those involved in planning this wonderful event and to the City of Wodonga who provided vital and significant support. Wodonga TAFE also provided support and many thanks to them from all of us. Many thanks also go to Jenni Huber who was instrumental in making this day the wonderful success that it was. The success of the day has assured that we will be doing it again in 2009.

Keep an eye out for birds and animals entering or leaving the nest boxes and please report any sightings to Alison on 6056 1938. Come and help us check what's using the nest boxes twice annually as part of our Works program on the fourth Sunday of every month. Watch our newsletter for details.

## *Next Works & Waterwatch:*

**Sunday 27 July & 24 August**

**1.30 pm Works**

**3.30 pm Waterwatch**

**Tea 3 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

## *Master Plan for Willow Park*

*Friends of Willow Park* met again with City of Wodonga and we are making wonderful progress with scoping the Master Plan.

We are currently finalising the best process to ensure everyone has their say on the Master Plan for Willow Park over the next 25 years. We hope you will be involved in this important project. Stay tuned for more!

## *August's Information Evening Guest Speaker – Robyn Rattray- Wood*

Robyn is Sustainability Project Officer with DSE in Benalla. She is involved in a number of projects such as implementing the Local Sustainability Accord, the North East Greenhouse Alliance and many groups working toward sustainability goals including Swinburne University's *NET Working for Sustainability*, and she has published many articles on Sustainability issues.

We hope to see you all at our next information evening when Robyn will talk about her projects, what "Sustainability" means and how you can be involved.

**When?** Tuesday 19 August 2008

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

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

**Further information:** Contact Alison on 6056 1938

## *Glenda Datson – Our Wonderful Guest Speaker in June*

Friends of Willow Park was fortunate to have Glenda Datson as guest speaker at our June information evening. Glenda held us captive as she told us about the many projects she has been involved with in our local area.

Glenda spoke about her work with AWDC and her early days with Carramar nursery including the magnificent achievement of 3 million trees planted in our local area over 25 years. Glenda then worked as a consultant and along with Ian Davidson and others she researched and published a trilogy of reports that culminated with the Wodonga Retained Environmental Network (WREN) – a unique model in Victoria and the first of its kind detailing a strategy to identify and apply methods to protect and enhance the native vegetation and habitat within the Wodonga region in conjunction with sustainable urban growth. It is because of these reports that we now have great tracts of land (approximately 1100 ha) within and surrounding our urban areas retained for conservation purposes for current and future generations. Not surprisingly, Glenda is very proud of her achievements and we are equally proud of her work and grateful that we have such hard-working and dedicated people such as Glenda in our local community.



Glenda Datson speaking at our June Information Evening

Glenda then showed us a series of magnificent photographs of threatened species in our local area and everyone delighted in the sights of the wonderful biodiversity that we have on our doorstep. Many questions were forthcoming and

Glenda proved to have incredible knowledge and understanding of our local environment.



One of Glenda's amazing photographs of a Bearded Dragon in our local area. Photo credit to Damian Michael.

Thank you so much for a wonderful evening, Glenda. We hope to take you up on your generous offer to take us out spotlighting in Willow Park one evening to show us what we have living in our park. **Watch our newsletter for details of our spotlight evening.**

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

Due to space constraints, we will continue our series in the next newsletter.

## *Don't forget – get involved with the Weed Spotters Program*

If you would like to help DPI prevent new weeds from getting a foothold, please consider registering as a Weed Spotter. If you want more information on DPI's Weed Alert program, or if you would like to register as a Weed Spotter, please feel free to contact your local Weed Alert Contact Officer Stuart Roberton on (02) 6043 7965, 1 McKoy Street Wodonga, or email [stuart.roberton@dpi.vic.gov.au](mailto:stuart.roberton@dpi.vic.gov.au)

## *Contributing to our newsletter*

If you have an item of interest for inclusion in our newsletter, please contact Laurie Fitzsimons: 60 245974 or email [newsletter@friendsofwillowpark.org.au](mailto:newsletter@friendsofwillowpark.org.au)

# Friends Of Willow Park Inc.



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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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