

# Friends Of Willow Park Inc.



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

## NEWSLETTER — May 2008

### *Friends of Willow Park obtains another grant*

Friends of Willow Park is excited to announce that it has received a "Second Generation Landcare Grant" that will allow us to engage a part time coordinator for a fixed term period.

This position will work within a community development framework to:

- increase membership of the group and the involvement of members and the broader community in group activities
- seek appropriate grants, sponsors and other funds for the group to successfully carry out its Objectives
- assist with the coordination of national and local events such as National Tree Day

The position description can be obtained from our website:

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

Please circulate this information to anyone who might be interested.

### *Master Plan for Willow Park*

The Steering Committee has begun to meet to discuss the how, what, and when of the planning process. We are looking at different ways to seek the views of the many users of the park. We want the community to have a great deal of input to the plan. Look for further details in next newsletter about how you can be involved.

### *June's Information Evening Guest Speaker – Glenda Datson*

Glenda is a well-known and respected local horticulturalist and a keen field naturalist with an interest in developing gardens for wildlife. Glenda is author of many publications including the Wodonga Retained Environment Network.

We hope to see you all at our next information evening when Glenda will talk about the many projects she has been involved in for the benefit of our local region.

**When?** Tuesday 19 June 2008

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

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

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

### *Arbor Week Grant Successful*

In our last newsletter we mentioned we hoped to work with two local schools to plant trees and make nest boxes for Arbor Week. We are thrilled to announce that our joint application with Wodonga South Primary School and Wodonga Senior Secondary College was successful. We have received a grant of \$1500 from the Natural Resource Conservation League.

**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

These funds will be spent building nest boxes, placing them in Willow Park and planting shrubs that will provide additional habitat and food for species we expect to take up residence in the nest boxes.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all those involved in planning this event and to the City of Wodonga which has provided vital and significant additional support. Wodonga TAFE has offered some additional support and many thanks to them from all of us.

The event will be held at Willow Park on Tuesday 24 June beginning at midday and going through until 3 pm. Why not wander down and see what's happening if you're free?

For further information contact Jenni on 6056 7116

### *Next Works & Waterwatch:*

**Sunday 25 May & 22 June**  
**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

### ***Weed Fact!*** Garden escapees account for more than 70% of our new weeds

Weed Alert staff are regularly on the road with their weed displays, recruiting volunteer Weed Spotters and raising public awareness of the state's targeted weed species. Many of our new weeds get their start in backyards. Please take care in what you plant, remain vigilant and watch for plants jumping your back fence.

A targeted weed to keep watch for over the summer is Alligator weed  
*Alternanthera philoxeroides* (see below).

This weed is a high priority State Prohibited Weed and has been recorded in several Wodonga backyards in the past.

If Alligator weed escapes into our creeks or waterways it can create dense infestations that increase flood damage and displace native flora and fauna. If you think you have seen this weed, please report it to Stuart Robertson using the contact details below.



Alligator Weed – Showing the Opposite Leaves and Papery White Flower

### **How you can help**

If you would like to help prevent new weeds from getting a foothold, please consider registering as a Weed Spotter. If you want more information on the Department of Primary Industries' 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 Robertson on (02) 6043 7965, 1 McKoy Street Wodonga, or email [stuart.roberton@dpi.vic.gov.au](mailto:stuart.roberton@dpi.vic.gov.au)

### ***David Pinder – Our Fascinating Guest Speaker in April***

*Friends of Willow Park* was fortunate to have David Pinder as guest speaker at the April information meeting. David held us captive as he told us about the many trials and tribulations of the rail trail project.

David outlined the history of the project, the important role of Albury Wodonga Development Corporation, Parklands Albury Wodonga, and the evolution of the Community Advisory Committee that

manages the development of the local trail.

As President of that Committee, David told us how the committee quickly concluded that community involvement and support were vital to the project's success and how they set about achieving that goal.

The group conducts regular working bees and fundraising to ensure the success of the project. Funding has been via grants with the support of Local and State Government and sponsorship has been provided by way of donated goods and services appropriate to the project.

Some clever negotiation was required with some of the local landholders who had a number of concerns about the project including fencing of the Crown Land and public access to their own land. The Committee successfully negotiated with these landholders and many of them now actively participate in the working bees.

David provided many other details of the project and for further information you can visit their excellent website ([http://highcountryrailtrail.org.au/index.php?option=com\\_frontpage&Itemid=1](http://highcountryrailtrail.org.au/index.php?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=1)).

What David made very clear to us all is the magnificent achievements a community can make with passionate and innovative energies. Thank you so much for such an interesting and inspirational presentation, David, and we hope to have you along again for a progress report.

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

In our last newsletter we looked at revegetation as a strategy for works on waterways to restore or rehabilitate our rivers and streams. In this and subsequent articles we'd like to consider some other strategies managers can use to achieve desired outcomes – more about why do it like that?

Another common works on waterways strategy is to use some form of partial-width structure to control bank erosion. There are a number of different types of

structures available and the best one to use will depend on the site and available resources.

However, you should consider the investment carefully so as not to be penny wise and pound foolish. Any structure should be chosen so that it allows for reduced bank erosion and sediment loads to the stream and habitat for macroinvertebrates.

One partial-width structure for erosion control that is particularly useful for areas where vegetation will be difficult to establish is "riprap" or, more commonly, "rock". It is difficult to establish vegetation in areas where stream velocity is very high such as the outside bends of sharp meanders and stormwater outlets.



An example of riprap use for erosion control

(source: [http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wat/wq/nps/BMP\\_Compendium/General/Aquatic\\_Habitat/Bank\\_Protect.htm](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wat/wq/nps/BMP_Compendium/General/Aquatic_Habitat/Bank_Protect.htm))

Riprap bank protection consists of coarse and angular rock of different size. The median rock size will be determined by the water velocity experienced at the site. Like most strategies for works on waterways, riprap is most effective when used in conjunction with other catchment management techniques such as stormwater wetlands that reduce the flow of stormwater to an urban stream such as House Creek.

### *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)

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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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