

Friends Of Willow Park Inc.



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

NEWSLETTER – November 2007

End-Of-Year Party!



Come and join us for our End-Of-Year party and help celebrate our achievements for 2007.

When? Tuesday 18 December, 2007

What time? 6.30 p.m - BYO everything

Where? Willow Park – BBQ area

What's in a Year? We Celebrate and Report on our First Year of Incorporation

Friends of Willow Park proudly celebrated our first year of incorporation at the Annual General Meeting on 16 October 2007. Although *Friends of Willow Park* is a small group of volunteers we have focused our energies on actions that will begin to make a difference both now and into the future to preserve, protect and enhance Willow Park and environs. The reports given at the meeting by the President and Projects Officer provided a remarkably long list of achievements over this first year and we thought we'd offer a summary for you here:

- Major contribution to Council's review of their decision to locate the aquatic centre in Willow Park
- Bi-monthly newsletter
- Bi-monthly information meetings with guest speakers
- Established our website
- Monthly works program
- Monthly Waterwatch program
- 1400 trees and grasses planted on National Tree and National Schools Day

- Grants - \$3100 received from Dilmah and VSE Grants for purchase of Waterwatch Equipment and other grant proposals submitted
- Support sought from local business
- Initiation of an alliance of community groups working on green open space in Albury-Wodonga (Border Alliance for Green Space)
- Proposal to City of Wodonga to develop a community-led Master Plan for Willow Park.

Friends of Willow Park also participated in a number of events throughout the year such as:

- North East Catchment Management Authority's (NECMA) Natural Resource Management Funding Demystified Workshop
- Parks Forum and Parks Victoria's Parks and Community Seminar
- Waterwatch Saltwatch Program, Wodonga
- Waterwatch Quality Assurance/Quality Control Day
- Wetland Care Australia's Wetland Field Day
- Department of Primary Industry's (DPI) Recognising Weeds in Our Waters Workshop
- NECMA and North East Water's (NEW) Water Roadshow, Willow Park
- Review of COW's Recreation Plan and provided feedback on the Draft Plan.

Full reports are available from Julie (6056 1787 or julie.hind@evolvingways.com.au) or Alison (6056 1938).

Next Works and Waterwatch:

Sunday 25 November

9.00 am (works) and 4.30 pm (Waterwatch)

Tea after works & before Waterwatch

Please bring a small plate to share

Meet near the skate park or later along the creek

Come along for 2 minutes or 2 hours

Phone Geoff 0427 954 050

NO WORKS OVER SUMMER

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

Many Thanks from FOWP!

Of course there are many people who have helped us along the way over the past year and we'd particularly like to offer our sincere appreciation to our outgoing committee members - Geoff Emmanuel, Gerard Moore, Kim O'Shea and Brydie Rebetzke.

We would also like to thank: our Patrons; our wonderful guest speakers; and the following friends and associates who provided their services for particular activities – Ryan Anderson, Mick Merrilees, Laurie Fitzsimons, Trudi Emmanuel, Belvoir School, Karen Stacey, Margaret Richardson, David Beckingsale, Apex Club of Wodonga, Dare's Fruit Store, Oke's Toyworld, Haus of Meat and City of Wodonga.

Our greatest appreciation goes to our members and supporters. None of the achievements noted above and those yet to come would be possible without your ongoing support.

We are now working toward the celebration of another great year of Friends of Willow Park and we look forward to seeing you at our events.

Master Plan for Willow Park

Many studies have found that healthy communities engage and involve citizens in planning for the future. We have 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. Members of the committee have visited and talked with other groups elsewhere in Australia where community-led plans for parks have worked very successfully. Council is currently considering this idea – we will keep you informed of progress!

Professor David Mitchell – October's Fascinating Guest Speaker

Friends of Willow Park were fortunate to have Professor David Mitchell as guest speaker at our October information meeting. David had a fascinated audience as he spoke about what he considers to be the most important principles for managing water in a flat, seasonally dry landscape. David's expertise comes from an extensive career studying this area of water resources. David's primary message was that Australia's landscape has evolved from the days of Gondwana land to the current landscape with inherent resilience.

We need to understand how our landscape works to ensure that we don't manipulate it with our management activities beyond that point of resilience.



David Mitchell speaks about water management at our October Information Meeting

David suggested the five fundamental "rules" of management for our water resources are:

1. Base the management on the whole water cycle in all its detail;
2. Use natural processes as much as possible;
3. Manage water as a whole-community resource;
4. Manage water to deliver an optimal balance of social stability, economic benefit and ecological sustainability; and
5. Ensure landholders can obtain an economic income independently of rainfall in unusually wet or dry years and thereby enable economic stability in rural Australia.

David explained his reasons for developing his rules. The natural water cycle is not well understood by most of us. There are details of water evaporation rates from native Australian trees and complex forests that are not taken into consideration. These have an impact on climate and have implications for our planting activities. David also showed us examples of how the use of natural processes such as restoring a stream to a chain of ponds had significantly increased agricultural production in an area of NSW.

Those attending the meeting were entertained and enlightened at the same time and discussions continued well into the evening. No doubt discussions will continue in the community as Australia faces a difficult time with respect to decisions relating to management of our precious water resource. David, we can't thank you enough for your wonderful presentation and we look forward to another fascinating presentation in 2008. Learn more about the reasons behind David's rules in our next newsletter.

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 Julie on 6056 1787.



Planning Works on Waterways – Why Do it Like That?

In our last newsletter we wrote about the merits of works on waterways – the why bother? In this article we'd like to consider the challenges of planning these works – the why do it like that?

We have only a short history of works on waterways and to some extent we're learning as we go. One of the things we have learnt is that works have a far greater chance of success if they are planned well. Some researchers have tackled the process of planning works on waterways and are generally agreed that there are certain elements that are necessary for a successful works project. Essentially, these elements fall into the categories of:

1. What needs doing?
2. Narrowing it down.
3. Doing it!

To work out what needs doing managers need to identify with the community the shared vision for the waterway. They then need to do some analyses to find out what condition the waterway is in currently as well as what condition it was in prior to degradation. Waterway assets such as areas of remnant vegetation are identified in the analyses along with any threats to those assets, for example, vandalism.

Identifying assets and threats helps the manager to narrow the project down by determining the priority strategies for achieving the shared vision for the waterway and by setting measurable objectives so the works can be monitored and evaluated.

As you may have already guessed – the process of planning works on waterways is quite a big job and can be expensive. However, past experience tells us that proper planning is a worthwhile investment in any works project.

Once the plan is finalised the next task for a manager is to implement the plan or, in other words, do it! In our next article we'll discuss some of the strategies managers use to achieve successful works on waterways – more about why do it like that?



A successful plan is vital to the success of a works on waterways project.

Grants update – FOWP Successful VSEG Application!

Friends of Willow Park is thrilled to announce that have been successful in obtaining \$1500 from the Federal Government's Volunteer Small Equipment Grants (VSEG) program to purchase a hand net for sampling macroinvertebrates (bugs) and a flow meter for measuring water velocity in House Creek. Knowing water velocity will help us to determine exactly how much salt and nutrients end up in Wodonga Creek from House Creek. We'd love to see you at the **Waterwatch day at 4.30 pm on Sunday 25 November** even if it is to just have a look at our new flash equipment.

Friends of Willow Park Committee

President	Julie Hind
Vice President	Alison Mitchell
Secretary	Nina Merrilees
Treasurer	Stephen Anderson
Ordinary Members	Pauline Anderson Jeni Huber

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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