

Friends Of Willow Park Inc.



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

NEWSLETTER - Sept 2007

National School Day and National Tree Day

Friends of Willow Park hosted National School Day and National Tree Day on Friday 27 July and Sunday 29 July, respectively.

Approximately 60 students and teachers from Belvoir School attended National School Day on the Friday and approximately 50 people came along to the event on Sunday.

Both days started with Gerard Moore explaining how to plant the trees and grasses and the best spots to plant them. Everyone then went off, shovels in hand, to plant as many as they could before the face painting and BBQ.

If you have been in the vicinity of Willow Park recently you will no doubt have noticed the many additional tree guards along House Creek. We are very happy and proud to report that 1400 trees and grasses were planted over these two days. Our regular works days on the fourth Sunday of each month will involve some input into maintaining these plantings.

Friends of Willow Park would like to thank all those who attended these events and everyone involved in promoting the days and helping to make them the great successes that they were.

A Special Thank You!

We'd like to express our sincere gratitude to Oke's Toyworld who subsidised the face paints; Dare's Fruit Store who subsidized the fruit; the Haus of Meat who subsidised the sausages for the BBQ; and the Apex Club of Wodonga who cooked the sausages to perfection.



Planting trees on National Tree Day, House Creek, Willow Park.

Annual General Meeting

We hope you will attend our AGM and help make a difference by nominating for the committee. Please see attached flyers for details.

When? Tuesday 16 October, 2007

What time? 6.30 p.m (light dinner provided)

Where? Belvoir School, 4 Bowman Court, Wodonga

Further information: Contact Alison on 6056 1938 or Julie on 6056 1787

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

Works on Waterways – Why Bother?

In our last newsletter we said that we would begin a series of stories on works on waterways – the how and the why of them. In this first article we want to talk about the merits of works on waterways – the why bother?

One of our most important natural resources on a national, regional and local level is water. Since European settlement our waterways have undergone significant changes and a lot of that change has proven detrimental to the health of the waterway and the water resource. For example, waterways have been altered by clearing riparian vegetation, planting exotics, straightening the water course, removing large woody debris, land clearing, and directing sources of pollution from urban and rural areas to waterways.

In recent times we have made great advances in our understanding of how our waterways function and the values and ecosystem services provided by a healthy waterway. These values and services include things such as recreational activity, habitat and corridor provision for biodiversity, erosion control, and filtration of pollutants. Our new understanding of our waterways and the strong relationship between their health and amenity has led to a new understanding of the need to restore them and, hence, our need to do works on waterways.

Restoration works on waterways is a rather young pursuit in this country and so to some extent we are learning as we go. One of the things we have learnt is that successful works on waterways require good planning.

In our next article we'll discuss the challenges in planning these works – the why do it like that?



Gerard Moore doing restoration works on House Creek, Willow Park

Professor Allan Curtis – August's Captivating and Challenging Guest Speaker



Allan Curtis holds the audience captive at the Friends of Willow Park Information Evening.

Professor Allan Curtis held the audience captive at the last Friends of Willow Park's information meeting as he challenged us with new information about trends in rural areas. Allan's topic for the evening was the trend to increased suburbanisation of rural areas and his presentation was aptly subtitled "Suburbs in the bush: is that what we want?"

Allan presented data that indicated a rapid increase in the rate of property turnover in rural areas of Victoria and he predicts a turnover of 50% in the next 10 years. Allan challenged us to think about what this might mean, particularly in light of his data foreshadowing that many of these new landholders might never have lived in the area before or worked the land as a livelihood, and they might not be involved with Landcare. There might be significant increases in the price of land. Other risks associated with an increased migration to the bush include things such as the loss of landscape values, cultural heritage (e.g. dairy in the Kiewa Valley) and local knowledge, and the increased number of people living in fire-prone areas. On the other hand, new people in an area often bring new ideas and cultural characteristics such as exotic food and wine.

Allan's question to us and the community was – is that what we want and what do we need to do to either continue on this path or alter our path to a more appropriate one to meet the community's desires. Those attending the meeting added many interesting points to the discussion and Friends of Willow Park can't thank Allan enough for a fascinating and challenging presentation.

October's Information Evening Guest Speaker – Professor David Mitchell

Professor David Mitchell is an Adjunct Professor and member of the Institute for Land, Water and Society at Charles Sturt University and Patron of *Friends of Willow Park*.

Professor Mitchell will add to Professor Allan Curtis' challenging presentation in August subtitled "Suburbs in the bush: is that what we want" and speak about the "The 'bush' in our suburbs: what do we want?" Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to hear David speak and to join in the discussion.

When? Tuesday 16 October, 2007

What time? 7.30 p.m.

Where? Belvoir School, 4 Bowman Court, Wodonga

Further information: Contact Alison on 6056 1938 or Julie on 6056 1787

Friends of Willow Park Website

Don't forget to visit us at:

www.vicnet.net.au/~fowpwod

Weed Alert – Targeting New and Emerging Weeds

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is taking new weed invasions seriously through the actions of their Weed Alert program. The purpose of Weed Alert is to develop a weed surveillance network, where volunteers look for and report high priority weeds in their area to a DPI Officer. The volunteer Weed Spotters come from all backgrounds and regions in Victoria.

Botanical knowledge and weed identification skills are not essential, as reports made by volunteers are filtered by DPI's Weed Alert Contact Officers (WACOs). Additionally, if you would like to improve your weed knowledge, training is offered to all Weed Spotters at various times of the year.

If you want to register as a Weed Spotter, simply phone 136 186 or visit the website (www.dpi.vic.gov.au/weeds), or if you would like more information, please contact your local **WACO Stuart Roberton** on (02) 6043 7965 or email stuart.roberton@dpi.vic.gov.au



The Weed Alert Invasive Plant Display at a Recent Field Day

Thank you to all the Weed Spotters who have joined our team and registered their details with their local WACO. Thanks also to those who have submitted photographs, details or samples of Weed Alert species (State Prohibited Weeds and Victorian Alert Weeds) or any unidentifiable weed species. Keep up the great work.

For those Weed Spotters yet to find a Weed Alert species or an unusual weed, please remain vigilant as the onset of warmer spring weather is sure to help a number of nasty weeds emerge in our area. If you think you have found a State Prohibited Weed, a Victorian Alert Weed, or if you have found a plant that seems out of place, please contact your local WACO on the details above and DPI will investigate further.

Please remember to consider that unusual plants may also be a rare or indigenous plant, in which case, they should not be removed until a positive identification is made by your local WACO.

Works and Waterwatch Schedule:

23 September at 1.30 (works) and 3.30 pm
(Waterwatch)

28 October at 9.00 am (works) and 4.30 pm
(Waterwatch)

Tea after works

*Please bring a small plate to share
Meet near the skate park*

Come along for 2 minutes or 2 hours

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Come join us! Contact 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

Friends Of Willow Park Inc.



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

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.

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