

# Friends Of Willow Park Inc.



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

## NEWSLETTER — September 2008

### *National Schools and Tree Days – another successful year of planting*

*Friends of Willow Park* are proud to report that we had another year of very successful National Schools and Tree Days planting. This report from Pauline Anderson and Jenni Huber:

National Schools Day on Friday 25 July was a special day for all involved. Twenty students from Wodonga South Primary School were accompanied by 20 Year 9 students from Felltimber Middle Years Secondary School. The students were treated to a presentation by Glenda Datson from City of Wodonga who explained the need to plant in an effort to redress the clearing Australia was engaged in during our earlier endeavours to clear the land. Glenda also demonstrated the best technique for planting. All of the students put in a great effort and planted 300 plants along House Creek before being treated to a BBQ expertly cooked and served by the wonderful team from Apex Club, Wodonga.

On the Sunday National Tree Day was celebrated by a great turnout of people of all ages. Planting continued along House Creek with some mulch being laid around the plants. Like the students had on Friday, we all followed the planting with a well-earned BBQ expertly cooked and served by the

Apex Club Wodonga team. Some also enjoyed the creative artistry of Jenny & Anika Sutter's face painting.

The weather was in our favour on both days and fortunately we had a heavy down-pour on the Sunday after the planting, which would help the plants to establish.



*Isabelle Rebetzke planting on National Tree Day*

Over these two important days a total of 640 trees and shrubs were planted, which is a significant contribution to Planet Ark's National Schools and Tree Days and the health of Willow Park and House Creek. When next in Willow Park take a walk along House Creek & you will see the great works that have been done. You may also notice that many tree guards have people's names written on them and in some cases even some fantastic art work.

**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

## *Special Thanks! For National Schools and Tree Days*



*Planting on National Tree Day*

In addition to all those who attended and did their best planting, there are many people to thank for the success of the days. Glenda Datson and City of Wodonga who provided expertise, plants, guards and stakes; Toyota who sponsored the day nationally and kindly donated spades, T-shirts and stickers; Apex Wodonga for the great BBQ; Bakers Delight for the donation of bread; The Haus of Meat for the snags at a reduced price; Barb Emery from Wodonga South Primary School and Ian Clark from Felltimber Secondary School; Jenny and Anika Sutter; Gerard Moore who provided planting expertise on the Sunday; and Jenni Huber for the tea and coffee that kept us all hydrated and warm. Thank you to all who supported the day. We look forward to seeing you at our next works day on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of every month.



*Enjoying a BBQ after planting*

## *October's Information Evening*

*Joint Function with Waterwatch  
for Waterweek 2008*

*Guest Speaker :  
Dr Juliet Bird*

Following a prestigious career with Melbourne University, Juliet now works part time for a small consulting firm, Geostudies Pty Ltd, Chairs the Landscape Committee of the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) and is on the Landscape Advisory Committee for Heritage Victoria. We are proud to say that Juliet is also a Patron of *Friends of Willow Park*.

Juliet notes that despite widespread land clearing leading to the loss of 70% of our native vegetation and 30% of our native wildlife on the road to extinction, Australia has some of the world's most extensive remaining pristine landscapes. However, landscapes are becoming increasingly scarce and/or under threat near where we live. While we understand that protecting our bush is important, we are yet to fully understand the need for the same approach to the landscapes where we live. This lack of understanding has led to conflict in our communities. Juliet suggests that "Cultural landscapes need wise planning and sustainable management just as much as bushland, or they too will be lost."

We hope to see you all at our next information evening when Juliet will talk about: Landscapes lost and found.

**When?** Tuesday 21 October 2008

**What time?** 6.30 p.m for BBQ dinner.

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

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

## *Next Works & Waterwatch:*

**Sunday 26 October**

**Works:  
9.30 am**

**Waterwatch:  
4.30 pm**

**Tea:  
11 am**

*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

## *Robyn Rattray-Wood – Our Guest Speaker in August*

*Friends of Willow Park* was fortunate to have Robyn Rattray-Wood as guest speaker at our August information evening. Robyn is the Regional Sustainability Officer for North East Victoria with the Department of Sustainability and Environment and she told us about the many projects she has been involved with in our local area and region with respect to sustainability.

Robyn's role grew from the Victorian Government's *Our Environment, Our Future* Sustainability Action Statement 2006. Primarily, Robyn facilitates sustainability projects and investigates what's needed to ensure sustainability in our region. She facilitates the Victorian Local Sustainability Accord, which is a strategy that aims to strengthen cooperative efforts between State and Local Governments to deliver the sustainability objectives identified in *Our Environment, Our Future*. This is a very important role as most sustainability efforts happen at the grass-roots, local level.

Robyn also outlined climate change in the North East region, which may have significant implications for sustainability in our region. A White Paper is due out in

October and will be open for public comment.



Robyn Rattray-Wood speaking at our August Information Evening

Thank you so much for a wonderful evening, Robyn. We now understand the importance of sustainability and have some knowledge of the great projects such as the North East Greenhouse Alliance and City of Wodonga's involvement in the Accord that are happening in our area.

To learn more visit these websites:

### **Our Environment, Our Future**

<http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/ourenvironment-ourfuture/>

### **Victorian Local Sustainability Accord**

<http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/DSE/nrence.nsf/LinkView/E0C24595FAB07DC0CA256FF/E000B8029E2176756455B21FFCA256E57007C82CF>

### **Climate Change in the North East Region**

<http://www.climatechange.vic.gov.au/greenhouse/wcmn302.nsf/LinkView/FEE40B2AD0F80AC8CA2572220000B9026D5A947B95FF8D80CA2571A80014245F>

## *Master Plan for Willow Park*

*Friends of Willow Park* continue to meet with City of Wodonga and we are making wonderful progress with 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!

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

The last time we looked at strategies for works on waterways we considered Riprap to protect banks against erosion. In this article we'll look at the importance of instream habitat and if it is worthwhile restoring such habitat.

Instream habitat is commonly known in the literature as "Large Woody Debris" (LWD), although we prefer to call it "Large Woody Habitat" not only because of the negative connotation of the word "Debris", but also because we feel that our term is more accurate. However, most of us will know these structures as "snags". Snags provide important habitat for fish and their food by providing hard surfaces for plants and animals to attach themselves to and protect themselves from the harsh world of variable and sometime flashy flow in the aquatic environment.



Snags are important instream habitat contributing to the health of our waterways. Phot source: <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/habitat/threats/woody-debris>

Before we understood the importance of woody instream structures for the health of our rivers and streams we believed that they inhibited navigation, obstructed flow and contributed to flood so we expended vast resources removing these structures in huge de-snagging efforts. In fact, by the 1980s we had removed 24,000 snags from the 100 km reach of the River Murray between Hume Dam and Yarrawonga alone! We now not only know how important they are to the aquatic system, but that they do not significantly alter flow overall so much effort is now being put into returning these essential habitat structures to our streams.



Re-snagging is time-consuming, expensive and potentially dangerous. Photo source: <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/habitat/rehabilitating/habitats/instream-habitat>

It is important to note when considering re-snagging that the concept of "if we build it they will come" is not always true and restoring woody instream structures must be done in conjunction with other strategies to ensure a healthy system that is habitable with respect to water quality and migration as well. That is, there's little point in going to the effort of returning snags to our streams if fish can't get there because of barriers such as a dam and if the quality of the water isn't good enough to support the fish.

Re-snagging is a specialised science and not just an art in that snags must be carefully selected and placed instream. We will look at the process in more detail in our 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 Robertson 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)

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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.

Receipt Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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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