

NEWSLETTER — May 2010

Stop Press!! New Grant for Gardens for Wildlife Project

Friends of Willow Park are thrilled to announce that we have received \$20,000 from the Federal Government under their Caring for our Country Community Action Grants for our Gardens for Wildlife project. This project will promote urban biodiversity, build links between urban gardens and parks and promote environmentally friendly practices in urban gardens.



Rainbow Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus haematodus*). Photo: David James

The grant funds will allow us to run projects and events to build understanding of the importance of urban gardens for native biodiversity and for limiting the impacts of pest species in bush and agricultural areas. We will be able to offer support to anyone wanting to renovate or build their gardens for wildlife. The funds will also help us to develop a website and information packs.

Autumn Amble in Willow Park

Friends of Willow Park held their first "Amble in Willow Park" earlier this month. A number of us enjoyed a quiet amble along House Creek from Pearce to Brockley Streets and back to the BBQ area.



Ambling in autumn in Willow Park. Photo: Christine Jewell

Many photographs were taken of the various plants and wildlife in our midst. A yummy afternoon tea followed our amble and we are looking forward to our next expedition in a new season.



Enjoying tea. Photo: Christine Jewell

Many thanks to Jenni, Christine, Maureen, Jenny and Pauline for organising this very enjoyable event.

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

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Website: www.friendsofwillowpark.org.au

Email: president@friendsofwillowpark.org.au

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PAWS in the Park

Friends of Willow Park had a stall at this year's PAWS in the Park. Despite the inclement weather, the event went ahead and many people came over to see what *Friends of Willow Park* were doing in our community.



Friends of Willow Park stall at PAWS in the Park.

We had many art and quiz activities for children and we gave out information about our activities. A number of people joined our group on the day and others requested their email address be added to our email list.

Many thanks to City of Wodonga and our wonderful volunteers – Stephen, Pauline, Bart, Julie, Paul, Jeanette, Jude, Clare and Ali – who helped make this such a successful day.

Master Plan - Update

We noted in our last Newsletter that Julie Hind was working with Matthew Fleet, Landscape Architect for City of Wodonga. Julie, Bronwyn and Matthew will meet again soon to discuss progress and further the Master Planning process.

A copy of the executive summary of Julie's report is available on our website (<http://www.friendsofwillowpark.org.au/pdf%20files/Executive%20Summary%20MP%20March%202010.pdf>).

Did You Know Only Female Ducks Quack? By Ingrid Elkner

How about the fact that **bread is bad for ducks**? We all like to take stale bread to the park on weekends, but it's doing the ducks no favours.

Why is bread bad for ducks?

Bread is to ducks what junk food is to us—fatty with little nutrients. In ducklings it causes malnutrition and affects growth. Uneaten bread goes soggy and creates algae in the waterways. Carbohydrate-rich foods make birds poo more, spreading disease. Mouldy bread? It causes a fatal lung infection called Aspergillosis. Plus frequently fed ducks become bullies towards humans to get food.

What are other options?

Use stale bread for cooking (recipes, breadcrumbs), or add to your compost.

"But I still want to feed the ducks!"

Here are some healthier alternatives:

- * Frozen peas (defrost them first!!)
- * Grapes cut in half
- * Barley, oats, birdseed, cracked corn or other grains (see local Feed store)
- * Duck pellets.



Ducks on the storm water treatment wetland in Willow Park.

By choosing not to feed the ducks and other birds at Wodonga's parks, or feeding them safer alternatives, you'll teach your children important lessons about ecosystems, and ensure the ducks will be on our lakes for many years to come.

Biodiversity by Design Project - Update

Many of you will be aware that we received funding from the Victorian Government through the Second Generation Landcare grants for our Biodiversity by Design project. We engaged Liesl Malan Landscape Architects to develop two draft concept landscape designs for the Pearce Street entrance to Willow Park.

We recently conducted our second Play and Say day to get your feedback on these designs. Many people came to the event and enjoyed games, art and craft activities, our new balloons, coffee, a BBQ and some fantastic music by Luke Stabb in glorious autumn weather.



Commenting on the Landscape Designs at Play and Say Day

Many thanks to City of Wodonga, Apex for the BBQ extraordinaire, Sue and Dan for the yummy coffee, Luke and our wonderful volunteers who made the day a great success – Julie, Jenni, Wolfgang, Marcus, Bronwyn, Paul, Jeanette, Pauline, Stephen, Bart, Geoff and Ali.

If you would like to see the designs and maybe even let us know what you think please contact Alison Mitchell on 6056 1938 or email coordinator@friendsofwillowpark.org.au

Next Community Gardening in the Park & Waterwatch

**27 June 2010
&
25 July 2010**

**Community Gardening
1.30 pm**

**Waterwatch
3.30 pm**

**BYO refreshments, sunscreen, hat
Meet near the BBQ area in Willow Park**

**Phone Pauline – 6056 6275 (Gardening)
or Ali - 0409 032 490 (Waterwatch)**

Friends of Belvoir Park/Sumsion Gardens

Friends of Belvoir Park/Sumsion Gardens meet on the last Thursday of the month. The group have decided to hold a regular “Clean Up Day” on the Sunday before their meeting. If you are interested in participating in any of the group’s activities or, better still, becoming a member (membership is free), contact belvoirpark@friendsofwillowpark.org.au.

The group recently unveiled their new banner that they will be using at events. The banner was kindly donated by Chris Bosley from ADCO Signs – many, many thanks!!



Friends of Belvoir Park Banner

Next Information Evening
Guest Speaker: Rob Fenton

Title: Food security in the 21st Century – designing food production in uncertainty

Rob Fenton is based at the National Environment Centre (NEC), a specialist campus of the Riverina Institute of TAFE where he is the head teacher of the Diploma in Sustainable Agriculture. Rob has taught practical sustainable farming for 25 years and has been involved with many sustainability projects in our local region including the In My Back Yard (IMBY) house on Lincoln Causeway.

When? Thursday 17 June 2010

What time? 7.30 p.m.

Where? Belvoir School, 4 Bowman Court, Wodonga

Light supper provided

Further information: Contact Ali on 6056 1938 or email coordinator@friendsofwillowpark.org.au

Gardens for Wildlife Project – Wodonga West Primary School Frog Pond

Friends of Willow Park have been working with VCAL students from Wodonga TAFE to develop a Gardens for Wildlife project with local schools.

These energetic young students have been working with Helena Foster and students from Wodonga West Primary School to develop a project to build a frog pond in the school's grounds. The pond will enhance a somewhat wet area at the bottom of the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden and provide much-needed habitat for native frogs.

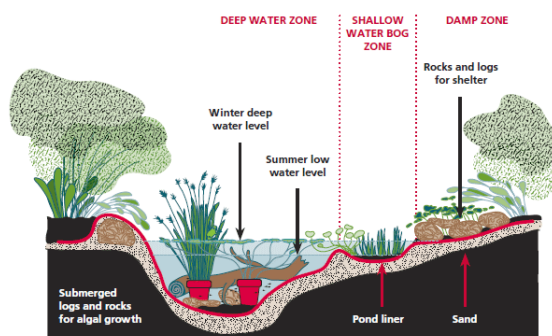


The site for the new frog pond at Wodonga West Primary School

The students are now working together and with Alison and Natalie from *Friends of Willow Park* to ensure the project is successful. The TAFE students will invite a speaker to talk with year 5 and 6 students about the importance of biodiversity and frogs in gardens and enjoy a BBQ after the new frog pond is installed.

If you would like to be involved in this exciting and fun event please come along to Wodonga West Primary School on Thursday 24 June at 10 am. Contact Alison on 6056 1938 for further information or email coordinator@friendsofwillowpark.org.au

How to Build Frog Ponds



An example plan of a frog pond. Source: <http://www.sgaonline.org.au/?p=650>



Friends of Willow Park Inc.

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

MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL: _____

DATE: _____

MEMBERSHIP IS FREE
Donations always welcome

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).

Donation: _____

Payment: (circle) Cash/Cheque
Cheques payable to: Friends of Willow Park Inc.

Receipt Number: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

Send your completed form to:

Mail:
Friends of Willow Park Inc.
c/- P.O. Box 1083, Wodonga, 3689
Email:
membership@friendsofwillowpark.org.au
Fax: 6056 2694

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). I would like to help out with:

- 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

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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