

Friends Of Willow Park Inc.



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

NEWSLETTER – July 2009

Willow Park Future .com – Join the Discussion

As members and supporters of *Friends of Willow Park* will be well aware, we are currently working with Wodonga City Council to develop a master plan for Willow Park.

The online forum will give people a chance to have more in-depth input, especially if they are unable to attend other events. The forum discussion will be facilitated by our coordinator, Kieran Bennett.

Come, join in the discussion, explore the issues and help develop a vision for the future of Willow Park. To participate, go to <http://www.willowparkfuture.com> and register a login. If you have any difficulties using the forum software, please contact Kieran, on 0430509913 or email coordinator@friendsofwillowpark.org.au

Gardens for Wildlife

Friends of Willow Park is establishing a "Gardens for Wildlife". This aims to encourage and recognise wildlife-friendly gardens and environmentally friendly practices in urban gardens.

If you would like to know more – and help us plan this exciting program, please join us on Monday 27 July at 6 p.m. at Felltimber Community Centre. RSVP to Kieran, on 0430509913 or email coordinator@friendsofwillowpark.org.au

Next Information Evening Guest Speaker – Dr Terry Hillman

Terry is an Adjunct Professor at La Trobe University in Wodonga and he also chairs the University's Regional Advisory Board.

Terry has been a Board member of the North East Catchment Management Authority and also the Murray Darling Association for many years. He was also Director of the Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre.

Terry has been involved in many projects designed to improve water management and policy in Australia throughout his eminent career in our region.

When? Thursday 20 August 2009

What time? 7.30 p.m.

Where? Belvoir School, 4 Bowman Court, Wodonga

Light supper provided

Further information: Contact Alison on 6056 1938 or email president@friendsofwillowpark.org.au

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

Postal Address: c/- P.O. Box 1083, Wodonga, 3689

Website: www.friendsofwillowpark.org.au

Phone: Julie: (02)6056 1787, Ali (02) 6056 1938

Next Community Gardening in the Park & Waterwatch

Sunday 26 July & 23 August

Community gardening in the park
1.30 pm

Waterwatch:
3.30 pm

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

Phone Pauline – 6056 6275
or Ali - 0409 032 490

National Tree Day!

Sunday 2 August - 10:30 - 12:30

This national tree day we will be continuing our rehabilitation work along House Creek, and seeking to beautify the park entrance on Pearce St.

Activities include tree planting, mulching and preparation, and face painting for the kids.

Our tree planting event is open to all ages and is disability accessible.

To participate, RSVP to Alison Mitchell on 02 6056 1938, or to president@friendsofwillowpark.org.au

Say and Play Day Willow Park

Saturday 22 August
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Free games and activities

Food and refreshments available

Bring the whole family and have your say about the future of Willow Park

What's in a name?

Wodonga City Council has recently been examining the issue of place names in Wodonga. As part of the place name review, 50 park names were proposed. Some of this proposal affected Willow Park.

The initial proposal was to rename certain parts of what we all commonly identify as Willow Park.

Friends of Willow Park made a submission to council on the issue. Essentially, our submission sought to have the following points highlighted:

- The entire parkland space between Brockley and Pearce Streets should remain Willow Park
- A single overall name will encourage more holistic planning and management of the site
- Dividing the park into several parks risks disjointed and disconnected planning and management
- People could be honoured within the overall park in by using the following names:

The Jack Eames Frontage

The Carl Fietz Corner

The Gerald Moylan Frontage

The Ernie Condon Corridor.

The park names committee has considered our submission. It has recommended acceptance of three of the four modified names that we put forward.

We thank the committee for this recommendation. However, we take this opportunity to again highlight the importance of retaining the whole of the parkland as Willow Park.

Another grant!

Friends of Willow Park is excited to announce a further grant from Landcare. This grant will enable us to work with the Council, Wodonga TAFE, and others to enhance the bio-diversity of Willow Park. This project, which will include a landscape design for the park's entrance, will be community led and be informed by the Master Plan.

June Guest Speaker Report -Alison Mitchell

Friends of Willow Park were delighted to have Dr Alison Mitchell as guest speaker at our information evening in June.



Alison talked about the ecology of urban streams compared with pristine streams and discussed the impacts of urbanisation on these systems. In particular, Alison pointed out how flow is significantly increased in urban streams during rainfall, washing life from the stream and carrying pollution in.

These “flashy flows” result from the rain being delivered directly to the stream rather than making its way to the stream via infiltration into the soil. For the same reason, during times of drought urban streams have reduced flow. This limits the all-important “base flow” that keeps water in the stream and creates refuges for aquatic life.

Alison went on to talk about ways we can help our urban streams. Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) featured, which comprises a number of ways to help the flow issues in streams.

Pervious pavement, rainwater tanks plumbed to toilets, grass swales and storm water treatment wetlands are all methods of implementing WSUD; however these applications are predominantly the responsibility of governments.

Individuals can help urban streams by ensuring they do not pollute the stream with garden or chemical waste. They can also get involved with community groups such as *Friends of Willow Park* that engage in projects such as revegetation and weed control for stream rehabilitation.

Alison also presented some monitoring data that *Friends of Willow Park* collects each month at the storm water treatment wetland and House Creek in Willow Park. This provides important indicators of the impacts of rehabilitation and water quality such as nutrients and salt.

Alison noted that, in general, the nutrient and salt levels at the outlet of the storm water treatment wetland are lower than at the inlet. This is a good sign that the wetland is working as it should. It was clear that we need much more data to gain a better understanding of how the water bodies in Willow Park are working and so the monitoring will continue.

No Problem with a Dog Park, just with new fencing in Open Space

In the past month the issue of a fenced dog park in Wodonga has received some media attention.

Friends of Willow Park made a submission to council outlining its concerns with a proposed dog park. Several of our members did the same.

The following is a media release the *Friends of Willow Park* issued in response to the issue:

Friends of Willow Park has recently learnt that Wodonga City Council is considering three possible locations for a fenced dog park in Wodonga. All of these locations are in unfenced areas of public open space.

Friends of Willow Park is opposed to any proposal which would fence a piece of public open space to create a single user area.

Friends of Willow Park supports the use of public open space for play and exercise with companion animals. We believe public open space can and should be shared by all responsible users, without resorting to the division of our public space with fences.

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FRIENDS OF WILLOW PARK

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:

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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