

# Friends Of Willow Park Inc.



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

## NEWSLETTER — November 2008

### *Our Second AGM – Another Exciting and Productive Year*

We celebrated another successful year at our AGM on 11 November. Key points noted included:

- Julie Hind, President, made special mention of the efforts of the many volunteers who have participated in activities in Willow Park, noting that the results of these activities are becoming more visible.
- Our part time coordinator Lachlan Slade has unfortunately resigned recently due to personal reasons. Lachlan's contribution was formally acknowledged.
- Significant inroads have been made to our working relationship with Council, resulting in more positive collaboration on projects.
- Stephen Anderson, Treasurer, thanked the committee members and members of the public who regularly contributed financially to FOWP. These contributions have enabled FOWP to operate.
- Alison Mitchell, Project Coordinator, provided details of the grants FOWP has obtained this past year – a total of \$10,300. These grants have enabled us to purchase equipment, materials and employ our coordinator.

- Alison also acknowledged Council's contribution of some additional equipment used in the Waterwatch activities.



*Enjoying a light tea after our AGM*

***Next Works & Waterwatch:***  
Help get the trees ready for summer  
Sunday 23 November

**Works:**  
9.30 am

**Waterwatch:**  
4.30 pm

**BYO Picnic lunch:**  
12 pm

**Meet** near the BBQ area in Willow Park

Come along for a minute or an hour  
**Phone** Geoff 0427 954 050  
or Julie 0429 445 536

**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

## *Rosellas Using the Nest Boxes*

We had heard many reports of rosellas using the nest boxes and we had waited and watched for ages. Finally, Jenny Sutter captured this photo of one of the adult birds leaving the nest box, no doubt after filling some hungry tummies.



We will be using geographic positioning system (GPS) and geographic information system (GIS) to map the nest boxes and their height, orientation, type and what is using them. Watch for that report some time next year.

Jenny also captured this photo of the adult birds just near the nest box:



## *Our New Committee*

We say "Welcome!" to our new committee members – Wilma Kröttje, Bart Citroen and Jenny Sutter and a heartfelt "THANKS!" to our retiring committee members – Nina Merrilees and Jenni Huber.



The new *Friends of Willow Park* Executive Committee, from left: Jenny Sutter, Stephen Anderson (Treasurer), Wilma Kröttje, Alison Mitchell (Vice President), Bart Citroen (Secretary), Julie Hind (President), Pauline Anderson

## *Dr Juliet Bird – Our Guest Speaker in October*

*Friends of Willow Park* was proud to have our patron, Dr Juliet Bird, as guest speaker in October.

Juliet began by noting the landscape types that have been lost to us over the past 200+ years – forests, wetlands, pristine rivers and native grasslands. Over time, what has become clear is that ecosystem benefits such as reduced water quality and soil health are also lost when we allow these landscapes to disappear. What we do not often think about is the loss of cultural and amenity value these landscapes also provide, which often equates to tourism values as well.

Some significant attempts to preserve remaining landscapes have been made. Approximately 4 million hectares or 14% of Victoria is preserved in reserves managed by DSE. Over the past year approximately 3000 hectares of additional land has been acquired to address the lack of connection between the reserves and to enhance the protective function they can provide to plant and animal communities.<sup>1</sup>



*Dr Juliet Bird speaking at our October Information Evening*

We were interested to hear that approximately 2.5% of our State is in road and rail reserves, which is about 11 times the area of Wilson's Promontory National Park<sup>2</sup>, yet we travel through or near them without really noticing.

Lack of connectivity is not the only issue for our reserves. Lack of funding for effective management of public land, exacerbating fire problems, is an example of the many difficult issues in regard to our precious landscapes.

Juliet told us of the recent publication of the Select Committee of the Legislative Council on Public Land Development that acknowledged community concerns surrounding management of public land and the loss of landscapes. The report noted that the community feels that economic gain had too often been given priority over the public interest. We have tended to approach our public land with a real estate mentality. The

report also noted that the mechanisms for involving the community in decisions about public land are usually inadequate.

Juliet then began to really stretch our thinking about finding new landscapes that we should protect and preserve to adequately replace these lost ecosystem benefits.

For example, Juliet pointed out that the vineyard landscapes of Victoria are easily as beautiful as those of France and that some of our geological sites would attract numerous visitors, including many from overseas, if we valued and protected these areas. No doubt there are many landscapes that we should be protecting and preserving for current and future generations - we just need to think outside the square.

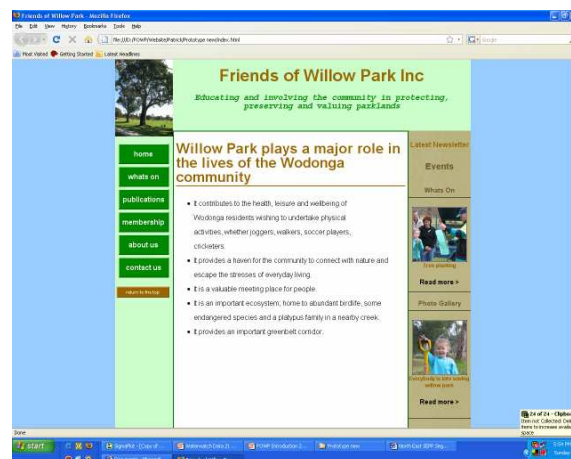
Thank you so much, Juliet, you were fascinating. We hope to see you again soon.

For further information on the **Report of the Select Committee on Public Land Development (11 September 2008)** visit this website:

<http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/council/publicland/default.h>

References if you want them

1. National Parks Act Annual Report 2006, p.4
2. Report from Karen Alexander, Biodiversity Officer, Victorian National Parks Association, 2007



*Check our new-look website. Thanks to Patrick Cagill for his wonderful efforts!*

## *Our End of Year Celebration*



**When?** Thursday 18 December 2008

**What time?** 6.30 pm - BYO picnic dinner, drinks, chairs and games.

**Where?** Willow Park, Wodonga – near BBQ area

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

## *Master Plan for Willow Park*

*Friends of Willow Park* continues to meet with City of Wodonga and we are making wonderful progress with planning the process.

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!

## *Membership*

It was decided at our AGM to make membership to *Friends of Willow Park* FREE.

Donations will be most welcome.

So, if you have been putting off joining us – now is the time to do it. A membership form is attached at the end of this newsletter.

## *Looking For a New Coordinator*

*Friends of Willow Park* wishes to engage a part time coordinator. This position will help us:

- increase membership and involvement in group activities
- seek grants, sponsors and other funds
- assist with the coordination of events and activities

If you can work within a community development framework; have a good understanding of natural resource management issues as they pertain to urban parks; have skills in community education, promotion or marketing; can source funds; are able to develop and implement action plans; are well organised; and have good communication and computer skills; CONTACT US!

The job ad is on our web site:

[www.friendsofwillowpark.org.au](http://www.friendsofwillowpark.org.au)

## *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 DPIs 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 Roberton 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 email

[newsletter@friendsofwillowpark.org.au](mailto:newsletter@friendsofwillowpark.org.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: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

#### MEMBERSHIP IS FREE

We would appreciate a donation with your membership form, but this is entirely voluntary

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation: (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.

**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