

Friends Of Willow Park Inc.



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

NEWSLETTER — September 2009

Willow Park Master Plan – Community Conversations

As members and supporters you will be aware that *Friends of Willow Park* have been working with the City of Wodonga to develop a Master Plan to guide the vision for Willow Park into the next 25 years. A significant part of this project, Community Conversations, was launched at Arts Space on 30 July. The aim of the project was to find out what park users, neighbouring residents and the general community value about the park; how they would like the park used; and what it should look like in the future.

Many people attended the launch of the Community Conversations project and heard Alison Mitchell (*Friends of Willow Park*) and Stephanie Garoni (City of Wodonga) talk about the background to the project and the four planned activities for the project (Play and Say Day, Survey, Community Forum, and Online Forum).



Geoff Emmanuel, Mark Byatt (Mayor, City of Wodonga) and Cathy McGowan at the launch of "Community Conversations"

Mayor, Mark Byatt, launched the project, which was followed by a demonstration of the Online Forum and then the all-important nibbles and wine were enjoyed by all.

The weather could not have been kinder for the Play and Say Day on 22 August – an activity forming part of the Community Conversations around the development of the Master Plan for Willow Park. Many thanks are due to the wonderful people of Apex Wodonga who provided their excellent cooking skills on the day and thanks also to Peards Wodonga who provided gift vouchers for the all-important prizes on the day at a discounted rate.



Having a say at the Play and Say Day

We would like to thank the many people involved in the success of this project including Johan, Peter, Jenny, Anna and Stephanie from City of Wodonga and Jenny, Wilma, Bronwyn, Geoff, Clare, Hilda, Brydie, Dennis, Michael, Stephen, Bart and John from *Friends of Willow Park*.

Julie Hind, President of *Friends of Willow Park* will present the findings from the data gathered during the Community Conversations project at our next Information Evening (see page 3).

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

National Tree Day – Another Successful Day of Planting and Socialising!

On Sunday 2 August *Friends of Willow Park* held its third annual National Tree Day event. Twenty people came along to Willow Park and planted approximately 200 additional trees and shrubs to continue our rehabilitation work along House Creek and to help increase and support biodiversity in the park. Many of those attending also participated in activities around maintaining plantings from previous years.



Sarah and Elise Mason getting into the serious business of planting grasses on National Tree Day 2009

The day concluded with face painting and a wonderful BBQ, which was cooked to perfection by the amazingly efficient and friendly people from Apex, Wodonga.



National Tree Day participants enjoying a BBQ cooked by Wodonga Apex Club

Many thanks from *Friends of Willow Park* to those who attended on the day, Apex Wodonga, Beazley's Meats Wodonga, Wandoo Nursery and the many wonderful people who helped organise the event and helped out on the day. We look forward to another successful National Tree Day in 2010.



Jessica Dwyer busily planting a red gum tree on National Tree Day 2009

We are also very pleased to report that the National Schools Tree Day planting event in Belvoir Park organised by the *Friends of Belvoir Park* in conjunction with St Augustine's Primary School was also a great success. We would like to extend our many thanks to the City of Wodonga, Sureway Employment Services, Wandoo Nursery and all those participating on the day for their wonderful and invaluable support.

Next Community Gardening in the Park & Waterwatch

Sunday 25 October

**Community gardening in the park
9.30 am**

**Waterwatch:
4.30 pm**

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

**Phone Pauline – 6056 6275
or Ali - 0409 032 490**

*Next Information Evening
Guest Speaker – Ms Julie Hind*

*What did the community say about
Willow Park? Findings from the
Community Conversations*

As members and supporters you will be aware that *Friends of Willow Park* has been working in conjunction with City of Wodonga to develop a Master Plan for Willow Park. The Community Conversations part of the project has drawn to a conclusion and Julie, President of *Friends of Willow Park*, will present the data gathered in this important and innovative project. Find out what the community have said about Willow Park and discuss if the findings are similar to your own views?

When? Thursday 22 October 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 coordinator@friendsofwillowpark.org.au

*August Guest Speaker Report –Dr
Terry Hillman*

Friends of Willow Park were delighted to have Dr Terry Hillman as guest speaker at our information evening in June. Terry shared his extensive knowledge and experience in water resource research and management to increase our understanding of the resource itself and the challenges facing all Australians with respect to looking after this dwindling resource into the future.

Terry began by explaining that the Murray-Darling Basin comprises only 7% of the Australian continent, yet provides 89% of the total water used for irrigation and over half of our rural production.

The importance of the North East region of Victoria was inescapable as Terry explained that 38% of the water in the Murray-Darling Basin falls here, despite the fact that the region makes up only 2% of the Basin's total area.

As Terry continued it became clear just how significantly our water resource and water use are threatened by declining ecosystems and climate change. Terry detailed how the Sustainable Rivers Audit (SRA, Murray-Darling Basin Commission) determined the current status of the Basin's rivers and any potential trends in condition of our water resources. He also outlined how the Living Murray project (Murray-Darling Basin Commission) was designed and implemented to redress some of the environmental issues for our water resources that were also raised in the SRA and how this program constitutes Australia's most significant river restoration effort. Terry then went on to explain the existing data around climate change and the potential direct and indirect effects of this phenomenon on our water resources.

Although there are significant issues facing our water resources, Terry pointed out that individuals may have a significant impact in redressing these issues. Each of us can improve our impact by improving our understanding and taking action on a local level such as joining groups like *Friends of Willow Park* who are working to improve our water resources.

For further information on SRA see <http://www.mdbc.gov.au/SRA>. For further information on the Living Murray see <http://thelivingmurray.mdbc.gov.au/>



Terry Hillman at our August Information Evening

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

In the past few months 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.

Despite our proposal that there are a number of multi-use areas in our city that are already fenced and could be used as an off-leash dog area, the City of Wodonga Councillors voted to erect a fence in Belvoir Park at their meeting on 17 August.

If you have concerns about this we urge you to contact Councillors and air your views. Contact details:

Mark Byatt (Mayor)

Phone: 0408 285 930

mbyatt@wodonga.vic.gov.au

Angela Collins (Deputy Mayor)

Phone: 0428 464 678

acollins@wodonga.vic.gov.au

Chris Ferguson

Phone: 0427 785 329

cferguson@wodonga.vic.gov.au

Edward Foulston

Phone: 0428 619 330

efoulston@wodonga.vic.gov.au

Lisa Mahood

Phone: 0409 562 903

lmahood@wodonga.vic.gov.au

Anna Speedie

Phone: 0417 138 938

aspeedie@wodonga.vic.gov.au

Rod Wangman

Phone: 0400 956 253

rwangman@wodonga.vic.gov.au

Gardens for Wildlife

As we noted in our last newsletter, we held a meeting on 27 July for people who may be interested in this exciting project to contribute their thoughts and expertise. We had some exciting ideas emerge during the course of these discussions and we look forward to reporting on these in future editions of this Newsletter.

Friends of Belvoir Park

As we noted in our last newsletter, a new group has been formed by concerned Wodonga residents – *Friends of Belvoir Park*. The group is growing and increasing their activities to protect, preserve and enhance Belvoir Park and Sumsion Gardens.

If you are interested in participating in *Friends of Belvoir Park*, contact belvoirpark@friendsofwillowpark.org.au

Coordinator News

Friends of Willow Park would like to thank the wonderful Kieran Bennett for his excellent work as our Coordinator since the beginning of this year. Sadly for us, Kieran has moved on to bigger and better things and we wish him every success in his future ventures.

We are pleased to announce that Alison Mitchell will be taking up the role of Coordinator on 19 October. Alison may be contacted on 6056 1938, 0409 032 490 or coordinator@friendsofwillowpark.org.au

Friends of Willow Park Annual General Meeting

When? Thursday 12 November

What time? 7.30 pm

Where? Belvoir School, 4 Bowman Court, Wodonga

Light supper provided

Further information and RSVP: Contact Alison on 6056 1938 or email coordinator@friendsofwillowpark.org.au

Contributing to our newsletter

If you have an item of interest for inclusion in our newsletter, please email newsletter@friendsofwillowpark.org.au

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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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