



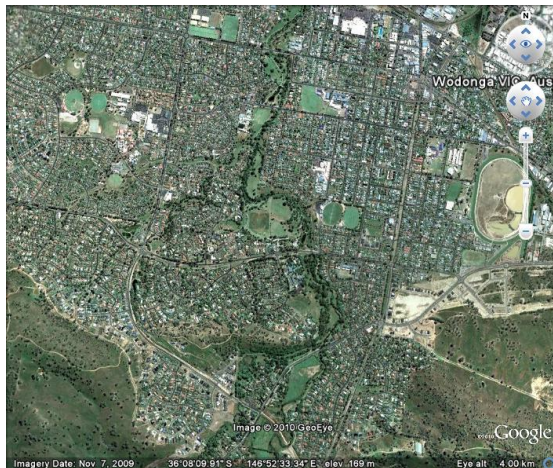
Friends of Willow Park Inc.

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

NEWSLETTER — September 2010

Stop Press!! New Grant for House Creek Corridor

Friends of Willow Park are thrilled to announce that we have received a Second Generation Landcare grant of almost \$40,000 from the State Government through North East Catchment Management Authority. This project will build on our partnerships with City of Wodonga, Parklands Albury-Wodonga, Department of Sustainability and Environment and North East Catchment Management Authority to remove Weeds of National Significance from the House Creek Corridor.



House Creek corridor, Wodonga. Willow Park centre. Source: Google Earth, image 7/11/09

Work will begin soon on the first stage of this project so you may see people spraying blackberry or injecting Willow stems sometime over the next few months.

The second stage of the project will involve the community in replanting to enhance the biodiversity values of the House Creek corridor and improve the links for our native birds and animals between the hills around Wodonga and the Murray River.

\$100,000 in Grants Funding!



Members and Friends enjoying a well-deserved celebration dinner in August 2010

Members of *Friends of Willow Park* can feel very proud! We have reached a milestone and have now brought \$100,000 in grant funding to our community. These funds are being used to enhance the values of Willow Park and the House Creek corridor, monitor our efforts and educate and involve the community in protecting, preserving and enhancing these areas.

Congratulations, everyone!

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

Postal Address: P.O. Box 5319, Wodonga Plaza, 3690

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Gardens for Wildlife Project

In our last newsletter we reported 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. 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.



Sean and Anja at our celebration dinner

We are very pleased to welcome Anja Thomsen and Sean Lethlean as coordinators for this project. Anja and Sean are doing a magnificent job and are well down the path of developing membership packs and designing the project website. We will be holding an event in Willow Park in Autumn next year. Watch this newsletter and our website for updates.

Update - Wodonga West Primary School Frog Pond

We mentioned in our last newsletter that *Friends of Willow Park* have been working with VCAL students from Wodonga TAFE to develop a Gardens for Wildlife project with Helena Foster and students from Wodonga West Primary School to build a frog pond in the school's grounds.

Work began on the frog pond on Thursday 24 June with John Hawkins from Wonga Wetlands talking with students about the importance of frogs, biodiversity and habitat. Students then enjoyed a well-earned BBQ after all that digging!



Proud students and teachers after building a frog pond at Wodonga West Primary School

Work is continuing on the pond and we will keep you updated with progress. We look forward to hearing the "croaks" of native frogs in the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden very soon!

Many thanks to Natalie and also to Sharon, Helena and the students of Wodonga West Primary School.

Next Community Gardening in the Park & Waterwatch

24 October 2010

&

27 November 2010

**Community Gardening
9.30 am**

**Waterwatch
4.30 pm**

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

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

Next Information Evening

Guest Speaker: Dr David Mitchell

Title: Observations on increasing urbanisation in Thurgoona

David is an adjunct Professor at Charles Sturt University and member of the Institute for Land, Water and Society. David has an enviable international reputation for his research in wetland ecology and is very active in our community contributing informed discussion to many environmental issues. We are very proud to have David as one of our valued Patrons.

When? Thursday 21 October 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

Celebration Dinner

Friends of Willow Park held their first celebration dinner in August. The main purpose of the celebration was to present the concept landscape design for the Pearce Street entrance to Willow Park. The design was completed as part of the Biodiversity by Design project. We were also fortunate to have City of Wodonga allow us to preview the draft Master Plan. Members were delighted by the designs and offered lots of positive comments and feedback.



Liesl and Claire presenting their final concept Landscape Design at our celebration dinner

Many thanks to Claire and Liesl from Liesl Malan Landscape Architects, Peter McLarty and Matthew Fleet from City of Wodonga for presenting the designs. We also wish to thank the remarkable people at the German Austrian Australia Club who offered a wonderful and beautifully presented venue and catered for us perfectly.

Friends of Belvoir Park National Schools Tree Day

Friends of Belvoir Park/Sumsion Gardens hosted Wodonga Primary School in planting in Belvoir Park on National Schools Tree Day. The children decorated their own tree guards and had fun planting before a yummy BBQ.



Wodonga Primary School students planting in Belvoir Park on National Schools Tree Day

Many thanks to Ron, Marlene, Teresa-Ellen, Jennifer, Jim, Councillor Anna Speedie and the staff and students of Wodonga Primary School.

Rob Fenton – August's Guest Speaker

Friends of Willow Park were treated to a very informative and inspiring talk by Rob about food security into the next century. Rob discussed the challenges to securing our food supply including increased population, peak oil ("we grow food on oil"), peak phosphorus, and a changing climate



Rob Fenton speaking about food security and greengroceries our August Information Evening

Rob's own experience as a farmer and teacher at the National Environment Centre allowed him to offer some fascinating insights about what we can all do to help increase not only the security of our food supply, but the nutritional value of our food as well. The best solution is to grow as much of your own food as possible and the best way to do that is to grow "greengroceries" – the bugs in soil that are essential to the health of soil and plants.

National Tree Day

Friends of Willow Park hosted our fourth National Tree Day in Willow Park last month and planted 200 more plants. Those attending were also treated to a BBQ following their planting efforts.

Many thanks to Paline for organising this event and to those who helped to make this event such a great success.

Floods in Willow Park

According to the Bureau of Meteorology, on Saturday 4 September 21.8 mm of rain was recorded at the Albury Airport and another 20.8 mm fell the following day. This rainfall came on top of the best winter rainfall for our area since 2005 (29 millimetres in June, 64.4 millimetres in July and 100.4 millimetres in August).

Flooding is a very healthy event for both waterways and their floodplains. And they can be a lot of fun to splash around in!

No doubt many of us have never seen the result of this sort of rainfall to Willow Park either because we have only recently moved here or become aware of Willow Park or we're not old enough (that's right – it has been a long drought!). So, here are some wonderful images of Willow Park and House Creek breaking its banks on September 4 2010:





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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.
P.O. Box 5319, Wodonga Plaza, 3690
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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