

NEWSLETTER — Sep 2011

Master Plan is approved!

The Master Plan for Willow Park was approved by Council on Monday 18 July. The plan reflects the values and aspirations highlighted during the community engagement process led by Friends of Willow Park and supported by Council. This is a fantastic result for the park! We now look forward to working with Council as the plan is implemented. For a copy of the plan, call Matt Fleet at Council on 6022 9300.

Meet Jill – our new coordinator

Hi, I'm Jill. I am the new coordinator for Friends of Willow Park. One of my main tasks is the coordination of the **Biolinks Project** - a partnership between Friends of Willow Park, Parklands Albury Wodonga, and Gardens for Wildlife.

This project will improve the wildlife corridor situated along House, Castle and Huon Creeks in Wodonga. We will achieve this by replacing weeds with native plants to provide food and shelter for wildlife. Native plants will also add colour, fragrance, and help stabilise the banks in floods.

As part of the project I will foster the development of resident and community groups to adopt their bit of creek.

Come and join one of our planned planting days.



Planting along House Creek

Along House Creek

- In Willow Park on Sunday 11 September from 9.30 to 11.30 meet at Pearce St BBQ
- South of Pearce St on Friday 16 September from 1.30 to 3.30 pm meet at Willow Park Pearce St car park
- Between Lawrence and Brockley Streets on Saturday 17 September from 1.30 to 3.30 pm meet at Les Stone Park car park

Along Castle Creek: Local residents Tom and Marg are leading a planting session in the 'horse paddock' on Castle Creek on Saturday 24 September - from 1.30 to 3.30pm

Along Huon Creek: Tuesday 20 September from 1.30 to 3.30 pm

We would love you to join us. Equipment will be supplied, as will a cuppa and biscuits. For more information call Jill on: 0457 834 852 or for Castle Creek call Tom and Marg on: 6024 2480.

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

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

Website: www.friendsofwillowpark.org.au

Email: president@friendsofwillowpark.org.au

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

Fax: (02) 6056 2694

National Tree Day

On National Tree Day, about twenty people, including one new member, Don, spent Sunday morning planting 500 trees along House Creek.

After two hours of industriousness, the new plantings were completed along the south side of the creek, from the lake to the footbridge.

A few hardy seedlings, which had survived the floods, were also located and rehabilitated.

A BBQ lunch completed an enjoyable and rewarding morning.



The BBQ was enjoyed by all

Our next step is to arrange for mulching around the new plantings. This will be a focus of our upcoming Community Gardening in the Park days

Next Community Gardening in the Park

Sunday 11 Sep
Sunday 16 October
Sunday 13 November

9.30 – 11.30 am

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

RSVP or information:
Pauline – 6056 6275

Social events

Have you joined us for one of our 'Friendly Fridays'? We meet for dinner at the German Austrian Club once a month – to chat and enjoy good friends.

Dates: 9 September; 14 October;
11 November; 9 December

Time: 6 pm

Cost: Mains, \$6; dessert, \$4; drinks at bar prices

RSVP is essential! - contact Pauline on: 0403 149 860 OR 6056 6275

Neighbourhood Power

Friends of Willow Park were very pleased to receive a Neighbourhood Power Grant from the City of Wodonga. The aim is to engage the local neighbourhood and increase the native flora and fauna in the Vermont St entrance to the park at the back of the Wodonga Bulldogs football ground.

Thanks go to City of Wodonga Tracey Farrant for organising the grant and to Richard Lamb for spraying weeds and providing mulch. Thanks also to Frank Reynolds for spreading the mulch and saving us lots of hard work.



Family enjoying planting trees

On National Tree Day and the following week we put up three nesting boxes and planted more than 50 plants, including grasses and nectar producing shrubs.

Four local families joined us in planting. We then all enjoyed a BBQ together.

The area planted includes along the football ground fence, under the old River Red Gum and around the seat overlooking the creek. We look forward to more planting with the local community in the future.



Up goes a nest box

Gardens for Wildlife

On World Environment Day over 300 people turned out for the launch of Gardens for Wildlife – or as it is affectionately known, G4W.

As well as numerous stalls providing useful information about how to plant a garden to attract wildlife, we enjoyed music, art, and games.



Having fun at the art tent Gardens for Wildlife Albury Wodonga aims to give you the knowledge you need to create a native wildlife refuge in your own garden. It is a sister program to the long-running Land for Wildlife scheme.

G4W is supported by *Friends of Willow Park*, Wodonga. It was set up with an initial grant from the Commonwealth Government through the Caring for Our Country Program.

By creating a little refuge for wildlife in your garden, you can:

- help to conserve local plants and animals for the future by providing suitable food, shelter and shade;
- help to control the spread of damaging species from gardens into native bushland;
- enjoy the benefits of having native birds and insects doing the pollination and pest control for you, whilst they are enjoying a feed;
- help to reduce water use and soil erosion through wise water use, such as mulching and use of local native plant species which tolerate drought conditions better; and
- provide corridors and pathways that help movement of wildlife species from suburban to bushland settings.

For more information contact the G4W coordinator, Craig, on: 6024 7646
OR visit the website on:
www.gardensforwildlife.org.au

There are some great tips on how to attract wildlife such as birds and frogs – check it out.



A local jazz ensemble entertained the crowd

Volunteer job vacancies

Are you interested in volunteering?
Would you like to use your skills to help a fantastic community group? Do you want to work with a great group of people?

Apply for one of our vacant volunteer jobs – they require only two or three hours each month

- web site updating
- facebook updating
- helping to compile the newsletter
- helping with funding submissions

For further information contact our coordinator, Jill on: 0457 834 852

Landcare awards

Landcare is a local volunteer movement that began in 1986. This year it is celebrating its 25th birthday. Landcare involves thousands of Victorians and *Friends of Willow Park* is one of 700+ groups across the state. Being in Landcare is about people working together to create positive change in the local community and environment – just like we do.

As part of the 25 year celebrations, Landcare has awarded long-serving volunteers with awards of appreciation. Alison Mitchell and Julie Hind from *Friends of Willow Park* were both awarded with 5-year active service awards on Saturday 10 September at a dinner at Tallangatta.

Congratulations to Julie and Ali for their many years of service to the group. “This is an honor,” said Julie, “but one that should be shared by all hard working volunteers in our group. *Friends of Willow Park* is the successful group it is because of the collective hard work of all us.”



Willow Park in flood in December



AGM

When? Thursday 3 November 2011

Where? Belvoir Special Development School

What time? 7.30

Guest speaker? To be announced

Come and join us in celebrating another year. Supper will be provided.



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: _____

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

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

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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