

# Birrarrung



June 2022

Issue 2/2022

## Newsletter of the Friends of the Yarra Valley Parks

Incorporating Manningham Conservation Society

Website: [YvFriends.org.au](http://YvFriends.org.au)

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### Activities – all welcome

Bring:

- Gloves, hand sanitiser
- BYO drinks/thermos, cup, nibbles for morning tea at 12 noon. None of these will be supplied.
- Bring your favorite weeding tool if you have one and/or a hammer for stakes, knee pads if you need them. Some tools will be provided.
- The usual old clothes and sturdy shoes, gardening gloves, a parka, or hat and sunscreen, insect repellent and a water bottle.

\*\*\*\* Please stay away if you, or anyone in your household has had any fever or Covid-19 symptoms during the last 2 weeks, and/or has been identified as a 'close contact' in the last 2 weeks.

\*\*\*\* If you haven't done so already, please 'join' our group on the ParkConnect website (see next page).

#### **Sunday 26 June – 10 am to 12 Noon – Main Yarra Trail, west of Pettys Orchard (Mel 21 J11)**

Planting. Park at the end of Homestead Road, Eltham (Mel 21 H11). Enter Homestead Rd. via Hohnes Rd. which is accessed from a right turn immediately after the entry to Eltham Lower Park from Main Rd.

#### **Sunday 24 July – 10 am to 12 Noon - Near Banyule Billabong, Viewbank (Mel 32 F3)**

There is a walk of about 750 metres to the site. Park in the car park for Banyule Flats Reserve off Somerset Drive. Walk east until you see the Plenty River Trail heading off to the left. Turn right here instead (south) and follow an informal path towards the river. More planting at this site where we've been working for a number of years.

#### **Sunday 28 August – 10 am to 12 Noon – Murundaka, Bonds Rd. Lower Plenty (Mel 33 A2)**

Planting where we first worked last year. Enter via a gate on the west side of Bonds Road, just after you go under the power line. You can park on the verge nearby if it's dry, or go back to the small parking area at the turn-off to Montpelier Drive.

You will be able to sign in for the activities above when they go up on ParkConnect soon.

**The Plant Nursery** is being maintained at this time of low demand, but no extra help is needed at present. **Committee** meetings are usually 4th Thursday at 7.30 pm in the Meeting Room at Westerfolds.

## ParkConnect

If you haven't done so already, please 'join' our group on the ParkConnect website:  
<https://www.parkconnect.vic.gov.au/Account/Login/Register>.

This will save us from having to record your emergency contact details on the day:

1. Create your account, or log in with an existing account,
2. Go to menu items Volunteer > Search for Programs and Groups
3. Then put "Yarra" into the Group Name Box, and click Search.
4. Then click on "Friends of the Yarra Valley Parks"
5. You will see a description of this group and a "Join group" button.
6. Click "Join group" so you receive notifications of new or cancelled activities of our group.

ParksVictoria now wants volunteers to have a 'Working with Children' check:

<https://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/home>

When you have received your card, you can upload a copy to your profile on ParkConnect.

## Kapok – botany and upholstery

The Warringal Conservation Society ran a 'kapok attack' recently beside the Banyule Billabong on the track towards the site where we will be planting in August. It targeted 'kapok weed', which is becoming more common along the Yarra valley. The text-books call it white bladder-flower or 'cruel plant' *Araujia sericifera*. Its cruelty lies in capturing a moth or butterfly by its long proboscis while it is seeking nectar from the flower. After a struggle, the insect is usually released with pollen attached.

Kapok weed is a vigorous climber, and with its heavy fruits it can weigh down and overwhelm the plants which support it.

A bystander commented on the similarity of the fruit to the choko, an unrelated plant which some people eat as a vegetable.

It is also unrelated to the yellow-flowered 'kapok bush' *Cochlospermum* sp. which grows in the Australian tropics.

The original kapok is a tropical American tree *Ceiba pentandra*, whose cottony seeds provided stuffing for pillows and cushions. The cottony seeds are the only things it has in common with both of the 'kapoks' found in Australia.



Daphne weeding kapok beside Banyule Billabong



Kapok fruit (about 10 cm)  
Photo: Joy Hick

## Yarra Riverkeeper Association (YRKA)

The Yarra Riverkeepers have been doing wonderful work over the last few months on the Main Yarra Trail at Murundaka, and at Westerfolds. With some help from the Friends and contractors, hundreds of plants have been put in and well protected.



Riverkeepers planting beside the Main Yarra Trail on 29 June (Photo Andrew Lucas)

### Upcoming planting sites ('before' photos)



Candlebark, beside Main Yarra Trail (looking north-west toward the river)

Planting June 2022



Near Banyule Billabong  
(The bare patch was under water last year)  
Planting July 2022



Murundaka, Bonds Road,  
Looking south-west  
Planting August 2022

**Friends of the Yarra Valley Parks Inc.**



If undeliverable, please return to:  
Friends of YVP  
C/o Joy Hick  
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