

Birrarrung

September 2022

Issue 3/2022

Newsletter of the Friends of the Yarra Valley Parks

Incorporating Manningham Conservation Society

Website: YvFriends.org.au

Email: info@YvFriends.org.au

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FOYVP>

Mailing address: C/o Joy Hick, 13 Haldane Rd. Eltham Vic 3095



President and Web: Clive Edington Ph. 0417-705-064

Treasurer and membership: Joy Hick

Newsletter editor: Graham Patterson Ph. 9432-0163

Annual subscriptions are due on October 31st.

If you wish to join up, go to the website - click [Our Membership Form](#).

Activities – all welcome

Bring:

- 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 25 September – Sweeneys Flats, Eltham 10 am to 12 Noon (Mel 22 B11)

Maintenance of previous plantings. Checking and replacing tree guards. Some weeding around the plants. Bring a mattock or other weeding tool if you have one. If not, tools will be provided. Park at the end of Sweeneys Lane and follow the signs.

Sunday 23 October – Westerfolds Park 10 am to 12 Noon (Mel 33 F1)

Removing plastic weed mats left after planting decades ago. Veer right after entering the park from Fitzsimons Lane. Continue straight ahead at the roundabout, then park at the car park at the bottom of the slope. A mattock and box cutter/Stanley knife would be handy, but tools will be provided.

Sunday 27 November – Mullum Mullum Creek, Doncaster East/Warrandyte – 10 am to 12 Noon.

A 4 km walk beside the Mullum Mullum Creek to finish the year. Meet at the car park near Beasleys Nursery (Mel. 22 F2). If we're feeling fit, we could digress into Currawong Bush Park on the way back. There's a shelter near the car park for a picnic lunch.

End of year BBQ, Wednesday 7 December – from 6:30 pm – Westerfolds Park

BYO everything. BBQ and shelter provided. The BBQ will go ahead even if it is raining. Enter Westerfolds Park from Fitzsimons Lane (Mel 33 G2), and then follow the signs to the Eucalypt Picnic Area, Swamp gum carpark (Mel 33 F1).

The first 2023 planting day will be the fourth Sunday in March. Details in the March 2023 Newsletter.

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Committee meetings are usually 4th Thursday at 7.30 pm in the Meeting Room at Westerfolds Park (Mel 33 F1).

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.

From the AGM – 25 August 2022

President's report 2021-2022 - Clive Edington

Revegetation and rehabilitation

We have continued to increase the environmental values along the Yarra River upstream and downstream near Templestowe. We maintained previous plantings and added new plants at Tikalara Park (Templestowe), Martins Lane (Viewbank), Candlebark Park (Templestowe), and at a block in Templestowe Road. In the Murundaka and Montpelier areas, our previous Melbourne Water grant paid for a contractor to do rabbit & fox control.

We were only able to do 4 of our usual 8 Sunday on-ground activities due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Most of our Sunday planting and maintenance activities were self-supervised. However, the Parks Victoria rangers helped with preparation during the days beforehand.

When Covid-19 restrictions allowed, our formal quarterly monitoring program at Murundaka continued, as did our Bird Surveys.

Our planned project to harvest stormwater from the Rosanna Golf course has been put on hold until a Cultural Heritage Report has been done for the Murundaka area. This will guide us to where we can do earthworks for a new pool to accept the stormwater.

Wednesday group

Our regular Wednesday group continues to look after the indigenous garden at the Manor in Westerfolds Park. A new group "Friends of the Manor" has started and has brought more volunteers along.

Work with other groups

To further support other Friends groups, we have liaised with the Victorian Environment Friends Network (an umbrella group for Friends groups) and participated in co-design sessions with Parks Victoria's new Volunteer Manual system. We have also worked with the Yarra Riverkeepers to do extensive planting along the Main Yarra Trail.

Membership

Our signed and paid-up membership increased by 1 since last year and is now at 29. There are also 3 Life Members and 3 Associates of paid-up members. The 5-year payment option remains popular. Numbers at activities fluctuate. Parks Victoria's ParkConnect website continues to introduce volunteers attending our Sunday plantings.

Thanks

Thanks to Parks Victoria staff, particularly John Williams, Cam Beardsell and Phil Rance.

A big thank you to all the committee and other members for all your contributions, especially during these trying Covid times.

Election of office-bearers

President & Website: Clive Edington
 Vice-president Andrew Lucas
 Secretary: Lucy Honeycombe
 Treasurer: Joy Hick
 Newsletter: Graham Patterson

Committee: Barrie Taylor
 Carmen Nemet
 Carol Page

Financial statement

Receipts
 Memberships and donations \$830.00
 Interest \$17.53
 PPCMA grant \$500.00
TOTAL \$1347.53

Expenses
 Memberships & Donations \$380.00
 Consumer Affairs annual fee \$60.10
 Web & EmailDodo costs - annual \$143.50
 Tube plants \$240.00
 Equipment \$159.33
 First Aid course \$330.00
 Reimburse membership \$75.00
 Grant expenses \$10,049.50
TOTAL \$11,437.43

Financial membership: 29

Cash in bank 30 June 2022

\$10,002.24

The Manor, Westerfolds

Pat Grey, a member of the Friends of the Yarra Valley Parks for a very long time, has been looking after the garden at the Manor almost single-handedly for a number of years. Now she is getting help from a newer group, the Friends of Westerfolds Manor. Together they are planting and weeding, and making the garden look better and better. The focus has always been on attracting butterflies to the garden, so it will be interesting to see what comes to visit as the spring season progresses.

The Manor has been unoccupied for a long time now, and is in need of maintenance. Unfortunately the Government seems unable to come up with the money. The building is protected by a Heritage overlay in the Manningham Planning Scheme, but that offers no protection from gradual decay. Ideally, the maintenance would be done and a suitable occupant would be able to make good use of this magnificent house. The Friends of Westerfolds Manor are aiming to make that happen. Please contact Ann Johnson (annandarch@gmail.com) if you'd like to help in any way.



Pat and Friends at work

Spring Outdoors Program

Each year, Nillumbik, Banyule and Manningham Councils combine to host a series of free or low cost interactive and educational events, activities and workshops throughout spring. These events promise to get you outdoors, enjoying some fresh air and making the most of the warmer weather! Residents are invited to attend events across all three municipalities. Many events and activities are suitable for children, families, and individuals of all ages with an interest in gardening, sustainability, and wellbeing.

October and November events include:

- Food Forest Gardening, Edendale Community Environment Farm
- Setting up a Worm Farm
- Forest Therapy Walks, Banyule Flats
- Growing Spring Veggies, Eltham Living & Learning centre
- Wildflower Walk and Talk, Banyule Northern Grasslands Reserve, Heidelberg West
- Smart Gardening for Seniors, Thrive Community Garden
- Sustainable Gardening Australia - Edible Gardening Workshops, Manningham Civic Centre Function Room
- Sustainable Gardening Australia - Gardening for Biodiversity Series
- Sustainable Gardening Australia - Gardening for Climate Series (online)
- Culture Awareness Walks, Somerset Drive, Viewbank
- Gardening with the plants of Nillumbik
- Composting for Beginners, Edendale Community Environment Farm
- Banyule's Breakfast with the Birds, Beverley Road Heidelberg
- Yarra River Warrandyte Nature Walk
- Mindfulness and Nature
- Create a Habitat Garden, Eltham Living and Learning centre
- Nature Treasure Hunt for Kids, Bunjil Reserve Panton Hill
- Ecological Vegetation Classes of Nillumbik Walk, Eltham

For details and booking: <https://spring-outdoors.squarespace.com>

Friends of the Yarra Valley Parks Inc.



If undeliverable, please return to:
Friends of YVP
C/o Joy Hick
13 Haldane Road
ELTHAM VIC 3095