

Birrarrung



October to December 2020

Issue 4/2020

Newsletter of the Friends of the Yarra Valley Parks

Incorporating Manningham Conservation Society

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Treasurer: Joy Hick

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Annual subscriptions are due on October 31st. If you wish to join up, go to the website - click [Application form](#).

See the web-site for any updates to activities.

If you no longer wish to receive a printed newsletter please email us and we will send you a digital copy.

ACTIVITIES – all welcome

Sunday Activities - **4th Sunday of the Month, 10 am to 12 Noon**, March to November.

Covid19 restrictions make further Sunday activities in 2020 unlikely. But we are scheduling our December BBQ in hope. We'll let you know if October or November activities are possible. Or keep your eye on our website.

End of year BBQ, Wednesday 9 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 2021 planting day will be the fourth Sunday in March. Details in the March 2020 Newsletter.

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The Plant Nursery is being maintained at this time of low demand, but no extra help is needed at present
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Committee meetings are usually **4th** Thursday at 7.30 pm in the Meeting Room at Westerfolds Park (Mel 33 F1).

Wildflowers at Westerfolds

Some years ago, an area in Westerfolds was fenced to protect a range of indigenous plants. The project was led by ranger Cam Beardsell and he had a little bit of help from the Friends. Here and on page 3 are photos taken in September this year.



From the Annual General Meeting 27 August 2020

President’s report 2019-2020 (Clive Edington)

REVEGETATION AND REHABILITATION

We have continued to increase the environment values along the Yarra River upstream and downstream near Templestowe. We planted at the Manor in Westerfolds, Banyule Billabong, Murundaka second wetland, Plenty River and the Middle Yarra Trail, Templestowe.

We were unable to do our on-ground activities from March to May due to Covid-19 restrictions. Stakes and guards were collected from previous planting sites and reused in new sites.

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

Our planned projects with Rosanna Golf course and Melbourne Water, which were on hold, will recommence planning and funding talks from July 2020. Further away are our negotiations with Parks Victoria to support the project.

Most of our Sunday planting and maintenance activities were self-supervised when Parks Victoria rangers have not been available on the day. However, the rangers have helped with preparation during the days beforehand.

I thank Andrew Lucas for his extended efforts in preparing and presenting a submission to a Planning Panel for the upcoming Yarra Strategic Plan. Andrew’s presentation was well received by the panel, who liked the good-news story of our success with Murundaka wetlands. Melbourne Water supported our position of the importance of involving Friends groups along the Yarra, and we hope that the Panel Report later in 2020 will incorporate that aspect into the Yarra Strategic Plan.

WEDNESDAY GROUP

The Wednesday nursery group has only met occasionally due to reduced stocks in the nursery. However there have been a few informal working bees to propagate new plants. We are continuing to look after the indigenous garden at the Manor in Westerfolds Park.

MEMBERSHIP

Our signed and paid-up membership has reduced by 6 since last year and is now at 27. There are 3 Life 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 members of the committee for all your contributions during 2019/20.

Election of office-bearers

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

Committee:	Barrie Taylor
	Rosanne Jessop

Financial statement

Receipts

Memberships	\$305.00
Interest	\$156.10
TOTAL	\$461.10

Expenses

Newsletters, postage	\$80.70
Incorporation fee	\$59.20
Donations	\$320.00
Grant expenses	\$806.88
Web costs	\$300.00
Insurance	\$1876.00
Plants – tube stock	\$330.00
TOTAL	\$3772.78

Cash in bank 30 June 2020	\$19923.73
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Financial membership: 27



Running postman
Kennedia prostrata



Spur goodenia
Goodenia paradoxa



Geranium
Geranium sp.



Common rice-flower
Pimelea humilis



Clockwise from top left: Sticky everlasting *Xerochrysum viscosum*, New Holland daisy *Vittadinia muelleri*, Creamy candles *Stackhousia monogyna*, Common everlasting *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*, Grass-leaved trigger-plant *Stylidium graminifolium*