

Birrarrung



September to December 2023

Issue 3/2023

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.

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

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

Maintenance of previous plantings – fixing tree guards and some weeding around the plants. 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. 'What3words' location is <https://w3w.co/filled.relay.camera>

Sunday 22 October – 10 am to 12 Noon - Westerfolds Park (Mel 33 F2)

Removing woven plastic weed mats left after planting decades ago. Veer left immediately after entering the park from Fitzsimons Lane. Look for Wattleview car park. It is blocked off, but there will be some space in front of the barrier for parking. Then follow signs to the site. A mattock and box cutter/Stanley knife would be handy, but tools will be provided. 'What-3-words location' is <https://w3w.co/good.dream.arena>

Sunday 26 November - 10 am to 12 Noon – Plenty River

An easy walk to end the year. Meet at the playground at Montmorency Park (Mel 21 B5). Don't be late. Enter from Para Road just north of the lights at the corner of Rattray Road. Turn sharp right after entry for parking near the playground. We will walk south to the site of previous plantings at the end of Martins Lane (Mel 20 J10) and back. Bring a picnic for lunch afterwards if you wish.

End of year BBQ, Wednesday 6 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 2024 planting day will be the fourth Sunday in March. Details in the March 2024 Newsletter.

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 – 24 August 2023

President's report 2022-2023 - 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 Banyule Billabong swales, Murundaka areas beside Bonds Road, and Sweeneys Flats. We also continued to remove the plastic weed mats that were still around trees planted 20-30 years ago in Westerfolds Park.

Over the last couple of years, we have started using double-height stakes and guards to deter kangaroos and deer from browsing our young plants. This has added some extra cost per plant but it is giving the plants a better chance to grow big enough to withstand future browsing.

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

We continue our formal quarterly monitoring program of Murundaka areas.

This year we joined LandCare Victoria which gives us extra contacts of like-minded groups and also simplifies our insurance.

FRIENDS OF WESTERFOLDS MANOR

Some of our members have joined and supported the "Friends of the Westerfolds Manor" to look after the indigenous garden at the Manor in Westerfolds Park.

MEMBERSHIP

Our signed and paid-up membership decreased by 1 since last year and is now at 28. There are also 3 Life Members and 6 Associates of paid-up members. The 5-year payment option remains popular. Numbers at activities fluctuate. The 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.

Clive Edington August 2023

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	\$305.00
Interest	\$8.69
Parks Vic grant VGF-56	\$950.00
Insurance refund	\$77.43
TOTAL	\$1341.12

Expenses	
Memberships & Donations to others	\$270.00
Landcare membership & insurance (half-year)	\$357.50
Consumer Affairs annual fee	\$61.20
Web & EmailDodo costs - annual	\$122.84
Plants	\$572.00
Equipment and tools	\$87.74
Stakes	\$402.60
Insurance	\$875.89

TOTAL **\$2,749.77**

Financial membership: 28

Cash in bank 30 June 2023 **\$8,592.89**

Pictures from recent plantings



Tikalara, July:

Near the mouth of the Mullum Mullum Creek. Weed mat and netting provide protection for ground cover plants

(Photo: Clive Edington)



Bonds Road, August:

Maddie and Will work on the plant pots, while the rest of us have more fun planting in the background.

(Photo: Meredith Plain)

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