

Birrarrung



September to December 2024

Issue 3/2024

Newsletter of the Friends of Yarra Valley Parks

Incorporating Manningham Conservation Society

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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](#) then click the "Membership Form" button.

(If you are already a member, you will receive a reminder letter.)

Activities – all welcome

Bring: 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 22 September – 10 am to 12 Noon – *Murundaka, Bonds Rd. Lower Plenty* (Mel 33 A3)

Maintenance of previous plantings – tree guards and some weeding around the plants. This site is adjacent to the Main Yarra Trail. Park at the end of Bonds Road ('What3words' <https://w3w.co/care.smile.gosh>) and walk west along the Trail. At the first bend, follow the sign to the right.

Sunday 27 October – 10 am to 12 Noon - *Westerfolds Park* (Mel 33 E1)

'What-3-words' location is <https://w3w.co/door.simply.storm>

We will be removing woven plastic weed mats left after planting decades ago. Enter Westerfolds Park from Fitzsimons Lane. Veer right and continue past the Parks office then turn left at the roundabout. Follow signs to Manna Gum car park. (It's as far as you can drive.) Then follow temporary signs across the creek and then right. A mattock and box cutter/Stanley knife would be handy, but tools will be provided.

Sunday 24 November - 10 am to 12 Noon – *Glynns Reserve, North Warrandyte* (Mel 23 A10)

Park at the end of Glynns Road, accessed from the Research-Warrandyte Road. 'What-3-words' location is <https://w3w.co/happy.front.relate> Don't be late. We will take a pleasant walk near the Yarra where we worked decades ago. The walk ends across the river from the tunnel at Pound Bend. Bring a picnic for lunch afterwards if you wish. Bring a folding chair.

End of year BBQ, Wednesday 4 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) <https://w3w.co/also.case.these>.

Most Wednesday mornings: Westerfolds Manor native garden – see page 2

The first 2025 activity will be the fourth Sunday in March. Details in the March 2025 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. This will save us from having to record your emergency contact details on the day:

1. Log in with your existing ParkConnect account, or create your account at <https://www.parkconnect.vic.gov.au/Account/Login/Register>,
2. Go to menu items Volunteer > Search Groups and Activities
3. Then scroll down slightly to the green heading "Search Programs and Groups"
4. Then put "yarra valley parks" into the Group Name Box, and click Search.
5. Then click on "Friends of the Yarra Valley Parks"
6. You will see a description of this group and a "Join group" button.
7. 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:

For instructions, click our [Website > Activities](#) page and then click the link to "About-ParkConnect-and-the-Working-With-Children-Check".

When you have received your card, you can upload a copy to your profile on ParkConnect as explained in the above instructions.

Westerfolds Manor Native Garden, Westerfolds Park

One of our members, Pat Grey, can be found most Wednesdays, between 8 am to 12 noon, working in the native garden at The Manor, at Westerfolds. She does a great job and her work is much appreciated by passers-by. Anyone who would like to help would be welcome to join Pat. Come and see many different native species and help with planting, weeding, mulching and pruning.

You don't have to be a regular – you can just go when it suits you. You don't have to stay for the entire session. But please book in by sending a TEXT to Pat on 0426 649 198. BYO thermos and nibbles for morning tea.

Park at what-3-words location <https://w3w.co/faces.cones.forced> (after entering Westerfolds Park from Fitzsimons Lane, Templestowe, and taking the first left turn to go to the end of the road to a car park). Then walk along the middle path slightly up the hill until you see the large Manor building (see map below). Then a very short walk around to the Manor garden gate at: what-3-words <https://w3w.co/panels.defend.broom>



**From the AGM – 22 August 2024
President’s report 2023-2024 - Clive Edington**

REVEGETATION AND REHABILITATION

We have continued to increase the environmental values along the Yarra River upstream and downstream near Templestowe. We added new plants and maintained previous plantings at: Tikalara Park, Bonds Rd South (2 sites), Banyule Billabong Swales, Montpelier Reserve and Westerfolds Park.

In Westerfolds Park we also continued to remove the plastic weed mats that were still around trees planted 20-30 years ago.

The total attendance at our activities was 92 volunteers, and we planted more than 1000 plants, built 1000m of wire fencing for plant enclosures, and removed more than 250 old weed mats.

We have continued 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.

We continue our formal quarterly monitoring program of Murundaka areas.

WESTERFOLDS MANOR NATIVE GARDEN

Some of our members have continued to look after the indigenous garden at the Manor in Westerfolds Park.

MEMBERSHIP

Our signed and paid-up membership increased from 28 to 33. There are also 3 Life Members and 6 Associates of paid-up members. The 5-year payment option remains popular. 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 2024

Election of office-bearers and Financial statement 2023/2024

Election of office-bearers

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

Committee: Barrie Taylor
 Carol Page

Financial statement

Receipts
 Memberships \$625.00
 Donations \$35.00
 Interest \$70.01
 Grants \$979.00

TOTAL \$1709.01

Expenses
 Memberships & Donations to others \$50.00
 Consumer Affairs annual fee \$63.60
 Landcare membership & insurance \$1295.00
 Web costs \$420.55
 Plants \$697.90

TOTAL \$2527.05

Financial membership: 33

Cash in bank 30 June 2024 \$7774.85



Spring has sprung and it will be a great time to get out and enjoy our amazing natural spaces.

From September through November 2024, **The Spring Outdoors Festival**, hosted by Banyule, Manningham and Nillumbik councils, provides a wide variety of environmental events, designed to get our community out, active and into nature.

Events will include:

- cultural walks
- conservation reserve tours
- citizen science challenges
- active living events
- guided environmental tours.
- age-specific events for kids and seniors.

You can visit your council's website for details on the various events in your area. Better still, visit all the websites and take in a few activities.



Friends of Yarra Valley Parks Inc.

If undeliverable, please return to:
Friends of YVP
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ELTHAM VIC 3095