



**Friends of the
Maribyrnong Valley Inc.**

Highpoint Library Community Rooms
Rosamond Road, Maribyrnong

PO Box 266
Ascot Vale Vic 3032

Email: maelor@melbpc.org.au

~www.fmvonline.com~

How FMV works:

Membership is open to all those who are interested in the preservation and enhancement of the Maribyrnong Valley.

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at the rear of Highpoint library, Rosamond Road, Maribyrnong. Meetings commence at 7.30pm and are open to all members. Guest speakers are invited regularly.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is held in August and in December, all members are invited to a social function.

Minutes of meetings are forwarded to adjoining Municipal Offices and representatives attend when possible, providing a valuable exchange of information.



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The Maribyrnong River

The Maribyrnong River, which flows from the slopes of Mount Macedon to Port Philip Bay, has borne witness to the occupation and development of western Victoria. It was home to aboriginal tribes for at least 40,000 years and has played a vital part in the rapid developments that have occurred in the last 150 years.

In earlier days its waters formed a natural boundary for the early city of Melbourne and a barrier to be bridged or forded in order to travel west to the grazing lands and later, the goldfields. Its banks provided docking for local and international trading ships. More recently, the river of the west is regaining its own pride and is no longer an industrial casualty.



The Maribyrnong River, its tributaries and valley with its riverside parks and wetlands are the most important public open spaces and community assets in Melbourne's west. The protection of these assets is vital to people of the western suburbs and Melbourne in general, as places for relaxation and recreations such as fishing, walking, swimming, jogging, bird observing and cycling. We are custodians of the Maribyrnong Valley and have a responsibility to care for it for the benefit of future generations

The river valley forms an invaluable breathing space in a highly developed and industrialized environment. It is a link in the river corridor that provides a crucial passage for wildlife including frogs birds bats insects reptiles and mammals. Floodplains along the river must remain undeveloped and allowed to accommodate periodic floods.

The Maribyrnong river and its valley must be preserved from residential and commercial encroachment, so that this irreplaceable public asset can be passed to future generations with pride.

FMV Aims and Activities

- * To raise public awareness of the potential of the Maribyrnong River and its valley as a natural and recreational resource.
- * To try to safeguard this natural asset from over-development, noxious and introduced vegetation, pollution and further loss of indigenous plants and animals.
- * To prevent misuse and degradation of the Maribyrnong Valley and assist in its rehabilitation.
- * Communication with councils and government departments on environmental issues and development proposals in the area including the north Maribyrnong Defense Site. Representation on consultative and advisory committees. and liaison with other environmental and land care groups within the area.
- * Participation in community activities including "Clean-up Days", festivals and fairs.
- * Tree plantings—from the bush to the bay, outings—river sight seeing cruises, visiting locations of interest, special projects—preparing leaflets and other promotional material including our bird book, video and heritage signs.

FMV Notable Achievements

- * **Birds of the Maribyrnong Valley**—this beginners guide to local birds and their habitat was produced by the group with funds from the Department of Conservation & Environment.
- * **The Other River (1989)**—an educational kit comprising of a 24 minute informative video and a teachers guide.
- * **Heritage Signs**—with illustrations and text depicting historic places and events in Keilor, Sunshine, Footscray and Essendon, these signs were designed in collaboration with the local historical societies and are located along the river.
- * **Grimes Flemming Bicentenary**—a re-enactment of the first navigation of the Maribyrnong River by Grimes and Flemming in 1803 was staged in collaboration with Living Museum of the West

Application for Membership

Applicants first name:

Applicants surname:

Address:

Suburb:

BH Phone:

Mobile:

Email addr:

Category of membership: (tick appropriate box)

Individual:

\$7.50

Concession:

\$3.00

Corporate Body:

\$150.00

Sign:

Date: