



Friends News Friends News



Summer 2009

It is the end of a long, hot summer, the Friends of the Maribyrnong Valley are all back from holidays and we are looking forward to a great year of removing and planting. Get out your diary and place in our dates. Keep a look out in further issues for more fun days you can join us. We will talk again at the end of Autumn. The Committee.

Wednesday Morning Group.

We are small in number, but always on the lookout for new members. We meet each week at different sites and the jobs vary from watering new plantings (if no rain), weeding or planting (depending on the time of year), some weeks we just pick up all the rubbish left by not so friendly river users. We also work on projects with Parks Victoria and the Moonee Valley Council. Never boring and always a chance to see the large variety of wildlife along the river. All you need is sturdy footwear, gloves, and a love of the valley.

Meetings. First Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm. We meet at the rear of the Maribyrnong Library. All welcome to come.

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Site Safety.

All work areas are under O.H.S. conditions. We always have a qualified first aid person in charge and all volunteers helping on community days **MUST WEAR** sturdy footwear, gloves and must register with organizer before starting work. Do not forget your water. We provide morning tea to all volunteers.

Community Planting Dates

Date	Time	Meeting Place
12 th June	10:30 – 12:30	Tea Gardens Carpark Melways Ref- map 27 G6
26 th June	10:30 – 12:30	Tea Gardens Carpark Melways Ref – map 27 G6
24 th June	9am – 11am	Warrick Ct. Parks Vic Carpark Melways Ref-map 28 H4
1 st July	9am – 11am	Warrick Ct. Parks Vic Carpark Melways Ref-map 28 H4
8 th July	9am – 11am	Warrick Ct. Parks Vic Carpark Melways Ref-map 28 H4
15 th July	9am – 11am	Warrick Ct. Parks Vic Carpark Melways Ref-map 28 H4
22 nd July	9am – 11am	Warrick Ct. Parks Vic Carpark Melways Ref-map 28 H4
26 th July	TBC	National Tree Planting Day Site to be confirmed

If you can assist on any of these days please ring Ian Wheeler 9336 1550 for more info.

Steele Creek to Canning St. Tea Gardens Riparian Woodland stage1

The 2008 planting from Steele Creek to Canning St. Tea Gardens has pulled through the summer in reasonable shape considering record low rainfall in spring, extreme heat in summer and hungry rabbits. Approximately 70% of plants survived these unforgiving conditions due to a coordinated summer watering program by FMV.

The staged removal of woody weeds across the site has opened it up to colonizer weeds but due to low rainfall and heat they have been kept to a minimum.

Stage 2 of the woody weed program has started along the riparian woodland section and set to expand into the escarpment area in autumn. These large piles of woody weeds have been piled for Parks Victoria to burn during winter.

Lily Street Escarpment Stage 1.

FMV have been successful in obtaining funding from Melbourne Water Community Grant Program to undertake weed control and revegetation of the Lily Street Escarpment. This site is listed as a Botanical Significant Site in the western region of Melbourne and supports a large array of wildlife including a family of wallabies. An assessment of the site has been undertaken by Parks Victoria, FMV and an environmental contractor with staged weed removal and control programs agreed upon. An access track has been brush cut in to the site and the woody weed removal program started.

New project

We are working with the people at "Waterkeepers" in the hope that joining their group will be another way of protecting the Maribyrnong River.



\$\$ New Grants over Summer. \$\$

We have received 4 over summer. Melbourne Water gave us money for Stage 2 of the Steele Creek Project, and money for Stage 1 of the Lily Street Escarpment. Both are large projects and we are very grateful for the ongoing support of Lisa and Matt.

We also have in-kind support from Parks Victoria and Green Corps through the Moonee Valley Council.

We also received the Support grant for our daily expenses and needs, and the Promotional and Development Grant is providing much needed funds for our website as well as this our new seasonal newsletter.

Corporate and us

We are always looking at ways for local companies to join our community planting days. If you or your staff would like to help in anyway we would be happy to welcome you. The most important thing is always time, and this in-kind relationship between us and the companies along the Maribyrnong River has always been important to us. As a consequence of our initial work the river has become a popular and very important part of our public/corporate lifestyle. So it is more important than ever to move on with the next stage of our projects. A partnership with us will not only enhance the river, but also enhance your corporate standing with the local communities.

Green Corps and Us

With the heat and fire of summer gone, Autumn is a welcome relief. Good news for the Friends. Michelle Gooding, Moonee Valley Council Conservation Officer, has been successful in obtaining the services of a Green Corps Group who work with us one day a week.

The Hon. Bill Shorten under the Federal Governments Youth Program initiated Green Corps. The launch was at the Warrick Court Carpark East Keilor on the 4th March. This program provides young people between 17-20 with development and environmental training. This provides them with conservation land management certificate one. They also receive training in First aid, occupational Health Safety, communication and preparing for future employment. This program not only provides necessary manpower for us, but also provides assistance to Moonee Valley and Parks Victoria for their ongoing projects.

Ian Wheeler Vice President