



Friends of the Maribyrnong Valley Inc.

Quarterly Newsletter

Summer 2017

Edition 32

Incorporation No. A10136

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Happy New Year, and welcome to another full year of fun and work. We have a wide range of events, sites and day's already planned and as the year goes on new dates and sites will be added. **Page 2 has the dates so far.** Please follow us on Facebook and the website to be updated on all of our activities. The wetter winter and spring has been great for our plant growth, but also our weed growth, so our loyal volunteers are already back on the job every Tuesday and Wednesday working on removing the "horrid" things. Remember if you are free you can join us on which ever day suits you and just let us know by e-mail the Friday before and we will advise where we will be doing maintenance on your day.

Please keep these important dates for your 2017 calendar

AGM Wednesday 2nd August starting at 7.30 PM Guest speaker to be confirmed in later newsletter

Xmas Party Wednesday 6th December starting at 6PM Come along for the fun and prizes. 2 Photos from 2016 party are on page 4.

Congratulations to Peter Somerville OAM winner of The Best Friends Award 2016.

As a founding member of the Friends of Maribyrnong Valley 30 years ago and as our Vice President since 2011 (when he stepped aside as President) Peter has generously donated his time and passion to co-ordinating and participating in advocacy roles on behalf of the group.

As Captain of the Blackbird and proprietor of Maribyrnong River Cruises, he has taken many politicians and representatives of Councils and government instrumentalities up and down the river showing them issues involving river management and exhorting them to consider the Maribyrnong of equal (if not greater) value to the Yarra

He is a bottomless source of information about the area and is constantly called upon to provide advice. He maintains a large personal library of public documents and can usually be relied upon to bring out a map, photograph, or report to support the group's arguments on any issue. His knowledge of the river has led to him being referred to as "The Old Man of the River".

Over the past 7 years he has had a representative role on the Moonee Valley Integrated Waterways Committee which provides a forum to engage with and obtain feedback from key stakeholders in the development and improvement of Moonee Valley's Waterways. Peter has been an integral member of this committee representing the Maribyrnong River.

Peter's contribution to the Maribyrnong River and Valley Parklands has helped build and sustain our very special waterway habitats and its associated conservations sites and in doing so he has helped to create a better place for our residents to live in as well as our local fauna.

Dates for your Diary

Volunteers must have gardening gloves, be wearing sturdy shoes, and have long trousers and long sleeve top. Please carry a bottle of water and wear hat and sunscreen. Children under 16 years of age must be supervised by a responsible adult

Dates	Function	Location
Every Tuesday	Working bees with the Maribyrnong City Council at Pipemakers Park Maribyrnong and assorted sites 9.30am till 12 noon	Van Ness Ave. Maribyrnong Mel map 28 B 10 Meet in bottom car park
Every Wednesday	Working Bees and planting days for 2017 Assorted sites Maelor to confirm for each week 9.30am till 12 noon	Warrick Crt. Car Park Melways Map 27 H4 and follow signs
Sat 18th February	Sustainable Living Festival Brimbank Council Westvale Community Centre. 10am – 3pm	45 Kings Road, St Albans Mel Map 13 F11
Tues 28 th February	Clean up Australia Day / FMV & Maribyrnong City Council site 9.30AM – 12 Noon	Van Ness Ave. Maribyrnong Melways Map 28 B 10 Meet in bottom car park
Sun 5 th March	Clean up Australia Day / FMV site 9.30AM – 12 Noon All Council sites can be found on their own websites	Anglers Tavern, Raleigh Road, Maribyrnong Mel map28 C8
Sun 7 th May	FMV Community planting day / Maribyrnong City Council 10am – 1PM	Burndap Peninsula, Car Park off Cumberland Dr., Maribyrnong Melways Map 28 C12
Sat 20 th May	FMV Community planting day / Maribyrnong City Council 10am – 1PM	Burton Reserve At the end of Burton Cr., Maribyrnong Melways Map 28 C8
Sat 20 th May	FMV & Brimbank City Council Community Planting Day 10am start Morning cuppa provided	Caroline Chisolm Reserve Flora Street, Keilor
Wed 14 th June	FMV / Melb Water / NAB Corporate Planting Day 9.30 OHS for10am start “Boot” Banquet	Warrick Crt. Car Park Melways Map 27 H4
Wed 28 th June	FMV / Melb Water / NAB Corporate Planting Day 9.30 OHS for10am start “Boot” Banquet	Warrick Crt. Car Park Melways Map 27 H4
Wed 12 th July	FMV / William Buck corporate Planting day with Moonee Valley City Council and the Green Army 9.30am – 12 Noon “Boot” Banquet	Canning Street Reserve Avondale Heights Mel Map 27 G7
Wed 19 th July	FMV / Melb Water / NAB Corporate Planting Day Welcome to our VIP day 9.30 OHS for10am start “Boot” Banquet	Warrick Crt. Car Park Avondale Heights Melways Map 27 H4
Wed 26 th July	FMV / Melb Water / NAB Corporate Planting Day 9.30 OHS for10am start “Boot” Banquet	Warrick Crt. Car Park Melways Map 27 H4
Sun 30th July	National Tree Planting Day FMV & Brimbank City Council 10am-3pm At the rear of the Keilor Golf Course	Sydenham Park Kings Road, Keilor Melways Map 26 D11
Sun 30 th July	Moonee Valley and Maribyrnong Councils have various sites so please check their websites for details	
Wed 2 nd August	FMV Community planting day with the Moonee Valley City Council and the Green Army 9.30 – 12 Noon	Canning Street Reserve Avondale Heights Melways Map 27 G7

Update from Parks Victoria, Brimbank Park

Works and activities staff has undertaken since November 2016.

David Collins, Area Chief Ranger, Keilor Plains Area will be attending our March monthly meeting and will elaborate on the items listed below:

Location	Resource	Works
Brimbank Park, multiple sites and escarpments.	PV Internal	Weed control operations targeting invasive succulent species, prickly pear and agave species; brush cutting, spraying and hand removal.
Brimbank Park garden beds	PV Internal	Spot spraying weed control and spreading of mulch.
Brimbank Park	PV Internal	Trail edge spraying operations. Fuel break maintenance works.
Taylor's Creek	Green Army	Maintenance of recently planted sites including manual weed control, pruning and minor fencing repairs.
Brimbank Park, flood plain below B picnic area.	Green Army	Maintenance of recently planted sites including manual weed control and watering of recently planted spp. X 400.
Green Gully	Green Army	Continuation of shrubby weed control targeting Broom infestations, cut and poisoning.
Maribyrnong River Brimbank Park,	PV Internal with Melb Water and Green Army	Joint project including weed control, litter removal and planting of native sp. Within riparian corridor of Taylor's Creek.
Mount Derrimut grassland	PV Internal	Fuel break maintenance and preparation works for ecological burn in Autumn 17.
Grasslands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Derrimut • Ravenhall North • Ravenhall South 	Contractors	Follow up post burn weed control works Year 2, targeting mustard, thistles, and other flat weeds, and invasive grass species Chilean needle grass, Serrated tussock.
Banchory Grove Grassland	PV Internal	Fuel break maintenance works, spraying operations and response to littering.
Summer Ranger Program	PV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharyn Mundy, summer ranger has returned to Keilor Plains and is assisting Rodolfo Maia in delivering 10 holiday activities for young visitors to parks within Keilor Plains. • Sharyn is working from both Maribyrnong Valley Parklands and Woodlands till the end of February. • Sharyn is the project manager for the newly created program form recently arrived migrants mainly concentrating on both a community garden and formal garden around Dodd's Homestead and old work depot, within Brimbank Park. • Sharyn will be with us till April 17.

Lower Maribyrnong	PV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistance provided to both Friends Groups developing VAP, as an example. • Fuel Break Works. • Liaising with Melbourne Water on plans for sewer upgrade.
Brimbank	Vic Roads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several site meetings with Vic Roads to ascertain their access needs for the EJ Whitten Bridge Upgrade works. Vic Roads needs will be less than first thought. • Parks is ensuring the storm water treatment associated with the bridge is upgraded and functioning, as well as seeking an upgrade to the trail that is located beneath the bridge.
Green Army Projects 2017-2018	PV / CMA / CVA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks Victoria has commenced discussions with the CMA who were awarded 11 Green Army projects within the west of Melbourne, identifying activities for the Green Army to do within the Keilor Plains Area. • The proposed works will build on the successful programs delivered by Green Army throughout the valley.

Recent spate of arson activities within grassland reserves in the west of Melbourne; Parks Victoria has been working closely with Vic Pol providing information on several fires deliberately lit on crown land over the past several weeks. Vic Pol announced recently that they have charged an individual with several of these fires. Parks Victoria will continue to monitor its reserves for the remainder of the proclaimed fire season, and will be undertaking 4 ecological burns in Western Melbourne as conditions allow.

Some photos from our Xmas Party 2016.

