



# Friends of the Maribyrnong Valley Inc. Quarterly Newsletter

Autumn 2017

Edition 33

Incorporation No. A10136

ABN No.: 57 567 161 098

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**2nd August 2017, Activities Centre, 54 Raleigh Road, Maribyrnong at 7.30pm  
(Please RSVP by 26<sup>th</sup> July for catering purposes).**

Nomination forms for all positions and Proxy forms for voting are included with this newsletter.

### MEMBERSHIP FEES

August may seem a long way away, but please remember all membership fees need to be paid (or if you wish you can become a new member at our AGM) by the 2nd August. FMV administration spends a lot of time following up membership fees. **Please**, if you could pay your membership fees by the AGM, it would be greatly appreciated. **Please note that if you have paid your membership between August 2016 and February 2017 you will be required to renew your membership.** Renewal forms for our membership can be found on our webpage [www.fmvonline.com](http://www.fmvonline.com) Being a FMV member deepens your commitment to our group and enables us to continue with our environmental projects. Don't forget to follow us on <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1155579301127854/> or our website [fmvonline.com](http://www.fmvonline.com)

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## GRANTS FOR 2017

### Lily Street Escarpment Restoration - Stage 9. Revegetation of the Maribyrnong River Floodplain Melbourne Water River Health Incentives Program

This stage of the project will continue the weed control program and planting of trees and grasses. Our corporate and VIP planting days will be at the Lily Street site and maintenance along the river site and Lily Street site will continue all year.

### Moonee Valley City Council Grant

Thanks to this grant we have our Environmental Friends Directory of Moonee Valley in a hard copy as well as on ours and councils web page. All groups in Moonee Valley will have copies as well as your local Moonee Valley Council library.

### Federal Volunteer Grant

The Department of Social Services has provided funding for us under this. This federal grant has enabled us to provide Maelor with a portable laptop and other office equipment we require to continue our work.

## Dates for your Diary

**Volunteers must have gardening gloves, wear sturdy shoes, and have long trousers and long 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. For the comfort of all, please leave your pets at home.**

Dates	Function	Location
Every Tuesday	Working bees with the <b>Maribyrnong City Council</b> 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 20 <sup>th</sup> May	FMV Community planting day / <b>Maribyrnong City Council Morning tea and BBQ lunch provided</b> 10am – 1pm	Burton Reserve At the end of Burton Cr., Maribyrnong Melways Map 28 C8
Sat 27 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>FMV &amp; Brimbank City Council</b> Community Planting Day <b>Morning tea and BBQ lunch provided 10am – 1PM</b>	Caroline Chisolm Reserve Flora Street, Keilor
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>FMV / Melb Water / NAB Corporate</b> Planting Day 9.30am OHS for 10am start <b>“Boot” Banquet</b>	Warrick Crt. Car Park Melways Map 27 H4
Wed 28 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>FMV / Melb Water / NAB Corporate</b> Planting Day 9.30am OHS for 10am start <b>“Boot” Banquet</b>	Warrick Crt. Car Park Melways Map 27 H4
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>FMV / William Buck corporate</b> Planting day with <b>Moonee Valley City Council and the Green Army</b> 9.30am – 12 Noon <b>“Boot” Banquet</b>	Canning Street Reserve Avondale Heights Mel Map 27 G7
Wed 19 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>FMV / Melb Water / NAB Corporate</b> Planting Day <b>Welcome to our VIP day</b> 9.30am OHS for 10am start <b>“Boot” Banquet</b>	Warrick Crt. Car Park Avondale Heights Melways Map 27 H4
Wed 26 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>FMV / Melb Water / NAB Corporate</b> Planting Day 9.30am OHS for 10am start <b>“Boot” Banquet</b>	Warrick Crt. Car Park Melways Map 27 H4
Sun 30 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>National Tree Planting Day</b> <b>FMV &amp; Brimbank City Council</b> 10am-3pm At the rear of the <b>Keilor Golf Course</b>	Sydenham Park Kings Road, Keilor Melways Map 26 D11
Sun 30 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Moonee Valley and Maribyrnong Councils</b> have various sites so please check their websites for details	
Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup> August	FMV Community planting day with the <b>Moonee Valley City Council and the Green Army</b> <b>9.30am – 12 Noon</b>	Canning Street Reserve Avondale Heights Melways Map 27 G7
Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup> August	<b>Annual General Meeting starts at 7.30pm</b> RSVP for catering purposes by 26 <sup>th</sup> July	Activities Centre 54 Raleigh Road Maribyrnong
Monthly meetings	1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month starts 7.30pm Last meeting for the year is the November meeting	Activities Centre 54 Raleigh Road Maribyrnong
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>End of Year Celebration and Xmas Party</b> 6pm arrivals for 6.30pm start 2-course meal. <b>Our annual fundraiser</b> (Cost and payment details to follow)	Front Room, Activities Centre, 54 Raleigh Road Maribyrnong

## Melbourne Water river health improvement works in the lower reaches of the Maribyrnong River including Steele and Taylors Creeks- May 2017.

This is an overview of the current Capital works program within the council boundaries of Brimbank, Maribyrnong and Moonee Valley.

Three Melbourne Water program areas enable river health improvement works on grounds

Grants-

- Available to Landholders, Community Groups, Councils, Anyone
- On a 50/ 50 cost share arrangement, either matched with \$ or in kind work
- For more information, please go to the Melbourne Water website:  
<https://www.melbournewater.com.au/getinvolved/applyforfunding/Pages/apply-for-funding.aspx>

Maintenance -

- Grass cutting, Minor Weed control & Revegetation, Civil works; and

Capital -

- Major Weed control and revegetation
- Bank Stabilisation/ Erosion Control and
- Fish passage

Below is a list of Capital Program projects; which have either been recently completed, are in progress or are planned in the next few years, with information on the types of works undertaken.

Project Number	Title	Project Objective	Project Status
1	Maribyrnong River, Sydenham Park to Arundel Creek	Weed Control and Revegetation	Complete
2	Churchill Main Drain, within Medway Golf Course	Weed Control and Revegetation	Complete
3	Maribyrnong River, Garden Avenue fishway	Fish Barrier Removal	Complete
4	Maribyrnong River, Horseshoe Bend Weir removal	Fish Barrier Removal	Complete
5	Maribyrnong River, Bluestone Weir fishway	Fish Barrier Removal	Complete
6	Taylors Creek, Green Gully Road to Maribyrnong River confluence	Weed Control and Revegetation	In Progress
7	Steele Creek, Roberts Road to Fullarton Road	Weed control and revegetation	In progress
8	Taylors Creek, Old Calder Highway to Burrowye Crescent	Weed Control and Revegetation	In Progress
9	Maribyrnong River, downstream Canning Street, Avondale Heights	Erosion Control	In Progress
10	Maribyrnong River, Fisher Parade to Smithfield Road	Erosion Control	Planned
11	Maribyrnong River, Milleara Road Drain (Tea Gardens)	Erosion Control	Planned
12	Maribyrnong River, Halong Drive to Lacy Street	Weed Control and Revegetation	Planned

13	Maribyrnong River, Dynon Road to Footscray Road	Erosion Control	Planned
14	Maribyrnong River, Steele Creek to Fairburn Park	Weed Control and Revegetation	Planned
15	Maribyrnong River, Poynton's Landing to Aberfeldie	Weed Control and Revegetation	Planned
16	Maribyrnong River, Riverside Park, Aberfeldie	Erosion Control	Planned
17	Maribyrnong River, Arundel Weir fishway	Fish Barrier Removal	Planned

In greater detail, some projects along the Maribyrnong River in Aberfeldie and Avondale Heights:

In Aberfeldie, two projects are side by side along the Maribyrnong River, the first is a weed control and revegetation project, the second a bank stabilisation project.

**Maribyrnong River, Poynton's Landing to Aberfeldie Park, Aberfeldie.**

This project focuses on a 450m highly visited section of the Maribyrnong River, just upstream of the Essendon Rowing Club and aims to improve amenity and vegetation quality, working in with Moonee Valley's Master Plan for the area.

This had been a problem spot for customer complaint to council due to poor access for maintenance activities. The steep bank provides hazardous working conditions and don't allow access to mow or brush cut, and has often become unsightly.

This project clears weeds including fennel, boxthorn and ash from the bank and vegetates the area with approx. 1700 native plants including Tangled lignum, River bottlebrush, Bursaria, Rhagodia, Prickly current bush, red gum, blackwood, and woolly tea-tree and some River Red Gum, encouraging a native vegetation community to establish.



## Erosion Control/ Bank Stabilisation Program

- Melbourne Water uses a risk based approach to identify and manage the most serious erosion issues.
- Each year, issues are prioritised across the Port Phillip and Westernport Region based on the nature of the assets threatened, the available options for intervening and the potential for multiple benefits to be achieved through intervention.
- Works are undertaken if the risk assessment has shown it to be necessary, a priority and that the benefits justify the cost.
- Melbourne Water's investment in asset protection varies across the Port Phillip and Westernport region.

Bordering the Poynton's Landing site in **Aberfeldie Park**, the Maribyrnong River is in need of bank stabilisation/ erosion control work, with bluestone out of place, and erosion occurring around the council drain and part of the informal path eroding in an undercut fashion, causing a safety hazard.

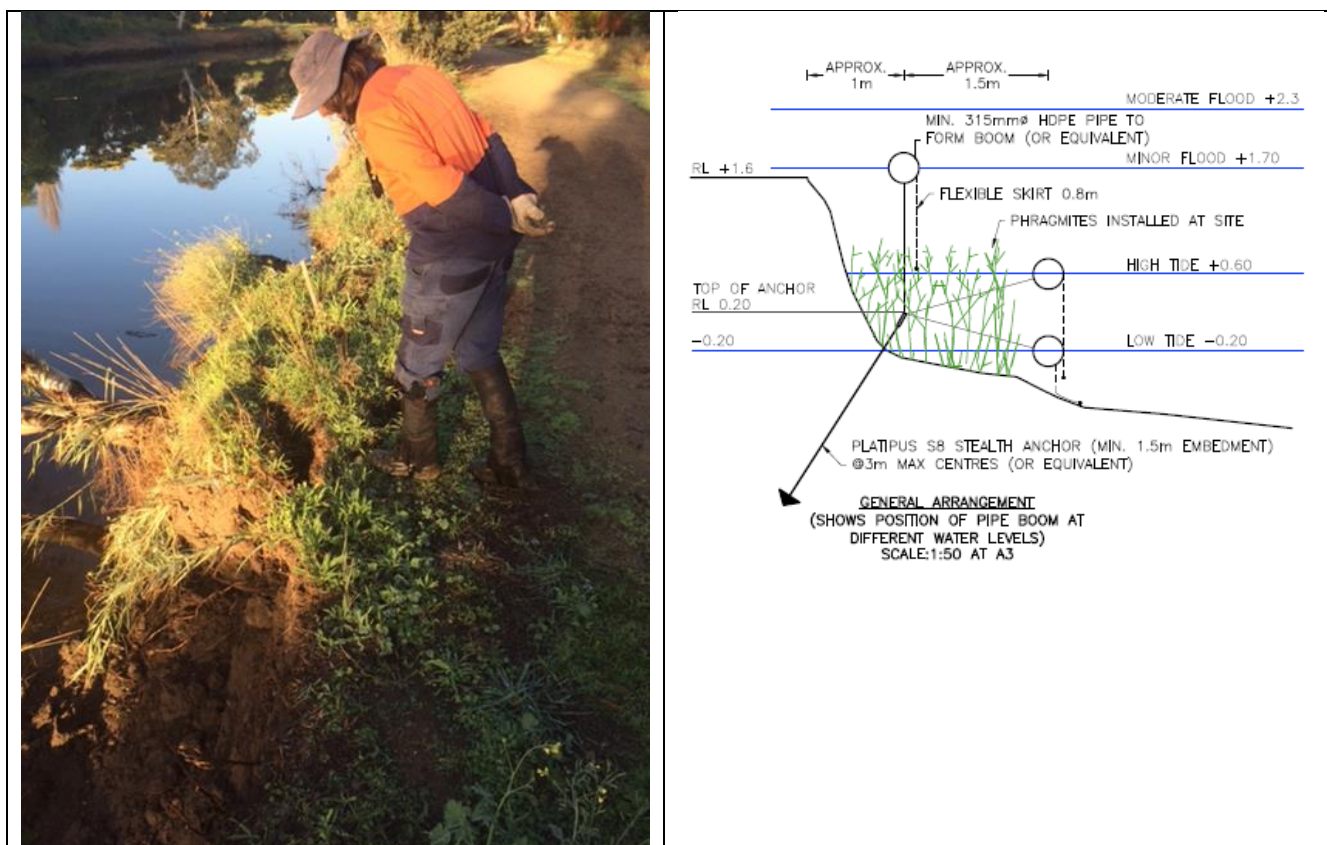


Investigation into the best methodology to use will shortly be underway and may borrow from what we are learning at **Avondale Heights, Steele Creek confluence to the Tea Gardens (downstream of Canning Street)**

Following geomorphic evaluation (bore holes) at Avondale Heights, we know that the bed material is generally made up of silts and/ or gravels, overlying clays, with a low plasticity index and a shrinkage behavior described as “cracking”. This substrate is not suitable for more traditional erosion control techniques like pile fields, as it is not capable of supporting such a structure. In many places there is also limited distance between the river bank and path, excluding the possibility of laying bank the bank to a softer gradient.

The most promising technique which we have sought a detailed design for, is to use a floating boom in the water, with a skirt attached to protect vegetation planted into the bank while it establishes. While booms are in use across many waterways, this is a new application for them. As such Melbourne Water are proposing for the project to be carried out in two parts, with learnings for the first section being incorporated into the second half and indeed at other sites (perhaps including Aberfeldie) if we meet with success.

Initially it was proposed to use Phragmites only, we are inclined to broaden the suit of species, enabling greater adaptation in our plan depending on what species establish well. The length of River bank under treatment is ~840m in total, the first section undertaken with be closest to Steele Creek.



The edge of the Maribyrnong River “cracking” and a schematic diagram of the boom design, anchored into the bed, with vegetation in place; shown at different water levels.

If you require any further information about these or any other projects, or you have an issue to report, please feel free to contact Melbourne Water on 131 722.