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Quarterly Newsletter

Winter 2022

Edition 53

ON-SITE VOLUNTEERING: COME JOIN US.

We are volunteering under reduced Covid rules and regulations.

Each site will have signs indicating that volunteering is occurring, with some arrows to point you in the right direction.

Volunteers are asked to bring their own gardening gloves, if possible, wear suitable stout shoes, and wear long trousers and a long sleeve top. As the weather is warming (a bit) you may need a hat, sunscreen, and your water bottle. Shorts, minis and thongs just won't cut it!

Social distancing of 1.5 metres is still required on all sites and FMV recommend using a hand sanitiser especially if sharing tools. Feel free to wear a mask.

FMV provide metal buckets with tools for regular working bee crew

We will provide tea, coffee, milk, sugar, and hot water, but please bring your own cup as well as any additional snacks needed to help keep your energy levels up!

Please leave your four-legged furry friends at home unless they can dig holes, weed, plant, or serve morning tea and do the dishes!

Children under 16 years of age must be supervised by an adult.

Sites vary due to weather conditions and maintenance required but are generally flat and easily accessible.

If you do not have your own tools, please advise Maelor in advance so he can bring tools for you to use.
maelor@melbpc.org.au

E-mail: maelor@melbpc.org.au in advance for **Tuesday and Wednesday locations**, and he will let you know where we are volunteering on the day you can attend.

We look forward to welcoming you to the FMV Team.

This Quarter Events:

This has been very busy for planting, with great support from both corporate and local community groups. Main planting areas this quarter:

- **Burdap reserve** – As part of the project to enlarge the habitat corridor for wildlife along the Maribyrnong, we have planted around 1700 plants in this area. The planting was greatly supported by NAB and KPMG corporate days. Another planting day was supported by the IWPG (International Women's Peace Group) and in addition Maribyrnong Council also held their National Tree planting

day at the site. We also hosted Katie Hall (MP for Footscray) and Anthony Tran (Mayor for Maribyrnong Council).



- **Braybrook Escarpment** – Two planting days with NAB and CommUnity+ resulted in over 800 trees and shrubs being planted at this site. Further up the escarpment can be seen more mature red gums trees planted by Melbourne water contractors. In addition, some 400 plants were planted in neighbouring Cranwell park



- **Caroline Chisholm** – Planting days with FMV and CommUnity+ have resulted in around 900 plants being planted in the reserve.
- **Green Gully / Calder Rise** – Three planting days by FMV together with NAB, DHL and CommUnity+ resulted in almost 2000 plants being planted. In the Green Gully site this was mainly grasses suited to the wet conditions of the site. Brimbank council held its National Tree Day planting at the Calder Rise site and planted around 5200 plants on the day. The Lions Club of Deer Park supported two of these days by providing a barbeque lunch.



- **Pipemakers Park** - As part of a tour of the wetlands given by Martin (Maribyrnong ranger) to local dignitaries including Daniel Mulino (MP for Fraser) and members of Maribyrnong council, some 100 plants were planted with the assistance of FMV members.



- **Jacks Wood** - Prior to planting, large areas of blanket weed had to be removed by FMV volunteers over many working bee days. 400 plants have since been planted to increase the understory of the wood. Last visit we were treated to the site of a pair of Tawny Frogmouths who were nesting there.



Upcoming Events:

- **Cooler, Green West** - As part of this initiative there is a proposed native tree planting for [Grimes Flat](#) to be held on Wednesday 14th September and 17th Sept (tbc) with the support of “Roots and Shoots” and Parks Victoria.
- **Burndap reserve** – All day maintenance on Wednesday 19th Oct from 9:30am with Landcare and KPMG.
- **Xmas Party** – To be held Wednesday 7th December from 6:30pm. Further details to be confirmed nearer the date.

AGM Update:

Our AGM was held on Wednesday 3rd August (via zoom meeting). All positions were declared vacant after reports were presented.

The officer bearers for the next 12 months are:

President: Judy Ingram

Vice President: Position still vacant

Secretary: Maelor Himbury

Treasurer: Rosemary Mc Kenzie

Grants Coordinator: Judy Ingram

Assistant Treasurer: Christine Armour

Web Site Coordinator: Warwick Somerville

Community Representatives: David Pepper, Rebecca Luxford, Tony Baldwin, Bronwyn Pearce, Sol Skeletor, and Janette Allison

Boris Scignari was thanked for his 7 years as Treasurer, and we wished him well in his new adventures ahead. We welcomed our new committee members and thanked them for supporting our group in this way. We thanked the past committee members who have decided to step aside for all their hard work over the past year.

Our Guest Speaker was Nicole Kowalczyk (PhD - Ecology) River Keeper, Maribyrnong Officer provided update on our waterways and this position moving forward.

Maribyrnong River Keeper:

On Wednesday 20th July a community forum Co-Design the Maribyrnong Riverkeeper Strategy was held at the Essendon Rowing Club. Five FMV members were in attendance with representation from a lot of other Friends Groups including Save Footscray Park, Friends of Steele Creek, Baykeeper. The major issues were over development (including run off from these sites), planning controls, pollution, water being pumped from the river, storm water, water heathland recreation on the river. The next meeting is planned for Wednesday 12th of October.

General News:

- **Footscray wharf and promenade** - A new wharf upgrade has been completed just down from Blackbird mooring. Funded by the council and West Gate Tunnel project.



- **Melbourne sewer water project** - As previously noted in last quarter's newsletter, the project has started but as yet there has been no disruption to the Maribyrnong trail between Canning reserve and the existing sewer bridge as anticipated.